

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# LESSONS FROM LINCOLN

**An All-American City**

**Dr. Happy**

**Creating a Surrogate  
Home in Language**

**Good Memories**

**A Classic Rediscovered**

**Life in the Laugh Lane**





**LAS News**  
WINTER 2008

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Cover: Abraham Lincoln's career offers timeless lessons in leadership, which are worthy of reflection as the nation prepares to elect a new president and celebrate our 16th president's bicentennial. Hand-colored lithograph circa 1865. (Image courtesy of the National Archives)

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Lately in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, it seems we have been regularly reminded of the impact of President Abraham Lincoln. Although born to a class that seldom knew the benefits of higher education, Lincoln pursued learning with a passion, devouring the classics of literature that transformed him from a man of humble means into one of the world's most gifted speakers. In essence, he fashioned his own liberal arts degree, and through the benefit of his education, he understood the power of knowledge and free thinking to shape a better society.

Today, Lincoln's vision continues at the University of Illinois and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. While the technology and capabilities of our present-day university far exceed those of Lincoln's day, we are still inspired by his simpler, yet no less inspired pursuit of education and greatness. We continue to build on his framework, ensuring that people have access to a great education to build, in turn, a better world for all.

More than a century after our founding, greatness should continue to be the standard by which all of our efforts are measured. It is pursued through our establishment of one of the most collaborative and interdisciplinary universities in the country, through mentoring students and involving them in groundbreaking research, and through giving students an edge in fields familiar to Lincoln, such as English literature, political studies, the classics, and history, as well as fields still undiscovered in Lincoln's time, such as nanotechnology, neuroscience, and cultural studies.

Our college's greatness is further advanced by our outstanding faculty, whose recent awards include the National Science Foundation Career Awards, Guggenheim fellowships, the 2007 Sir George Stokes Medal from the Royal Society of Chemistry, the 2006 Whiting Writer's Award, the National Book Award, the 2007 Prelog Medal, the Heartland Society book prize, and sharing in the Nobel Peace Prize presented to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Our faculty have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering and named as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

I sincerely hope that through this magazine you will find inspiration from Lincoln and the students and faculty at the University of Illinois.

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf  
Dean

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# Real-World Transformers

Study of abstract spaces is accomplishing real-world feats, such as operating robots remotely.

By Doug Peterson

A snake-like robot worms its way through holes and inaccessible areas at a disaster site, looking for survivors and sending back images to relief workers at a remote location. As the snake-like robot reaches a wall, it suddenly changes shape, becoming the kind of robot that can climb walls and other barriers.

For such transformers to become a reality, one of the key challenges will be shape planning, or figuring out how a robot can efficiently move from one shape to another. To pull off such a technological feat, the esoteric science of “topology” has answers, says Robert Ghrist, a professor of mathematics in LAS.

Topology, which is the study of abstract spaces and shapes, has been around for 100 years as a theoretical tool. But thanks to the work of researchers like Ghrist, topology is making the crossover into the world of real-life engineering problems.

Ghrist is leading a project dubbed “Sensor Topology and Minimal Planning,” or STOMP, which is looking at how topology can be used for a multitude of purposes, such as creating shape-shifting robots, developing sensor networks, or coordinating teams of robots working on a factory floor.

To use topology, Ghrist says, researchers take a real, three-dimensional space and convert it into an abstract space—the mathematical equivalent to “trading spaces.” Then they use tools from topology and geometry to gather information about that abstract space. The final step is to translate this information back to the real-world space, using the information gathered to solve various problems.

To illustrate, let’s say you have a security network of sensors that is monitoring movement in a specific space—a field, for example. It is critical that there be no gaps or holes in the sensor network where a person in the field can go undetected, Ghrist says. To pinpoint gaps, mathematicians can use topology tools such as homology theory, which is effective in determining whether shapes have holes.

Ghrist says to think of each sensor as being surrounded by a disk representing the area of the field

it covers. The union of all of these disks forms what is called the “sensor cover.” Mathematicians can use homology theory to study the shape of the sensor cover and determine whether there are any holes in the network—spots on the field where an intruder might go undetected.

“This works surprisingly well,” he points out.

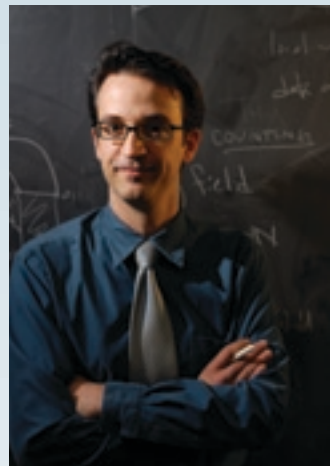
Not only does it work well, it simplifies the process at the same time. Ghrist calls it “minimality” because topology cuts out much of the superfluous information about the space being studied.

“Sometimes more information is harmful,” he says. “You waste resources processing unnecessary information.”

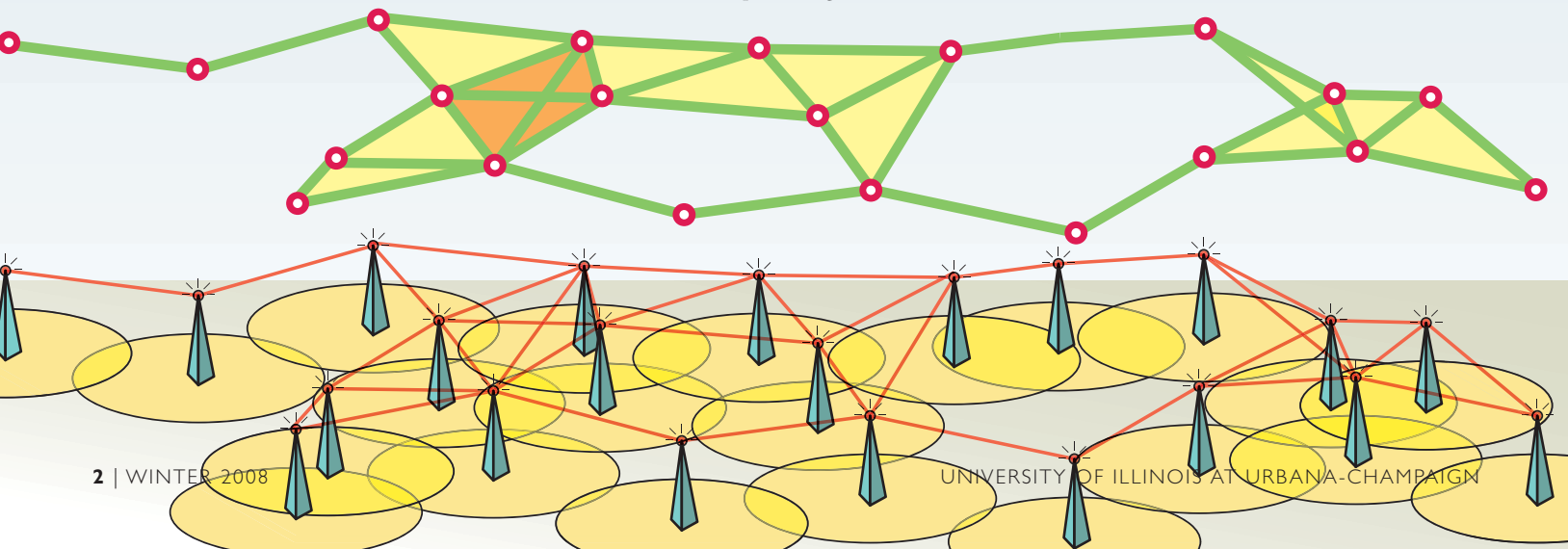
Ghrist is working with fellow U of I mathematicians Stephanie Alexander and Richard Bishop, whom he describes as “absolutely the two best people around who know these geometric techniques.”

The beauty of topology is that it can be used with many types of complex systems and problems. It can even make it possible to keep track of robots’ locations without using expensive, bulky, global-positioning systems.

“All of these problems look really different,” Ghrist says. “But when you translate them into an abstract space, they are remarkably similar and amenable to the same tools.”



Mathematician Robert Ghrist is using topology for such purposes as creating shape-shifting robots, developing sensor networks, or coordinating teams of robots working on a factory floor.



# The Truth and Nothing but the Truth

SCIENCE FICTION WAS A RICH SOURCE OF IDEAS ABOUT A LIE DETECTOR

By Stephen J. Lyons

If there is any one person who embodies the combination of frivolity and seriousness that surrounds the history of lie detection it would be William Marston. Melissa Littlefield, LAS assistant professor of English, and kinesiology and community health, says it was a 1920s ad for Gillette in *Newsweek* featuring Marston that sparked her interest in all the ways we try to separate truth from falsehood. In the advertisement, Marston—a Harvard graduate, the creator of Wonder Woman, and the inventor of the lie detection test that led to the modern polygraph—had hooked up a man to a lie detector to determine his true reaction to his shave.

“It was at that point that I thought, I have something here,” Littlefield recalls. “How is this functioning forward and backward in history and where did this technology come from?”

That epiphany led Littlefield to an ongoing literature in science study. Within the science fiction genre she has found that writers

frequently predicted the mechanisms that would later be used in place of the good old-fashioned third degree. Although Wonder Woman’s “truth lasso” never came about, stories and novels as far back as 1909 featured a device resembling a lie

detector, a device that did not come about until the 1920s.

“Part of what I try to do is use fiction to revalue fiction as not something that’s merely responding to science but as something that is generative of science,” Littlefield says. “Other scholars have looked at detective fiction as a precursor to lie detection and I think that’s valid. But I am interested in looking at where the technology actually shows up, where we’re physically seeing people use it. Some of the litera-

**“Part of what I try to do is use fiction to revalue fiction as not something that’s merely responding to science but as something that is generative of science.”**

ture I use seems to be marginal. So there’s pulp stories. It’s not canonical stuff obviously.”

She notes that today’s security-laden, post-9/11

world of body scanners and radiation sniffers uses truth technology that was also foreseen by authors. James L. Halperin’s 1996 novel, *The Truth Machine*, conceived of a world where everyone would have to pass beneath a truth machine to receive jobs and licenses. The idea is that all dishonesty in life would disappear. Littlefield likens Halperin’s fictional creation to the new functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) technologies. This is often called “brain fingerprinting,” Littlefield says.

“These new techniques purport to offer more direct access to the deceiving mind than does traditional polygraphy. Traditional lie detection relies on changes in the autonomic nervous system (blood pressure, heart rate, pulse, respiration) to



determine emotional changes in an individual. Both fMRI and EEG track changes in the central nervous system. fMRI and EEG data sets seem more accurate because they come directly from the brain; they are not filtered through any auxiliary parts of the nervous system.”

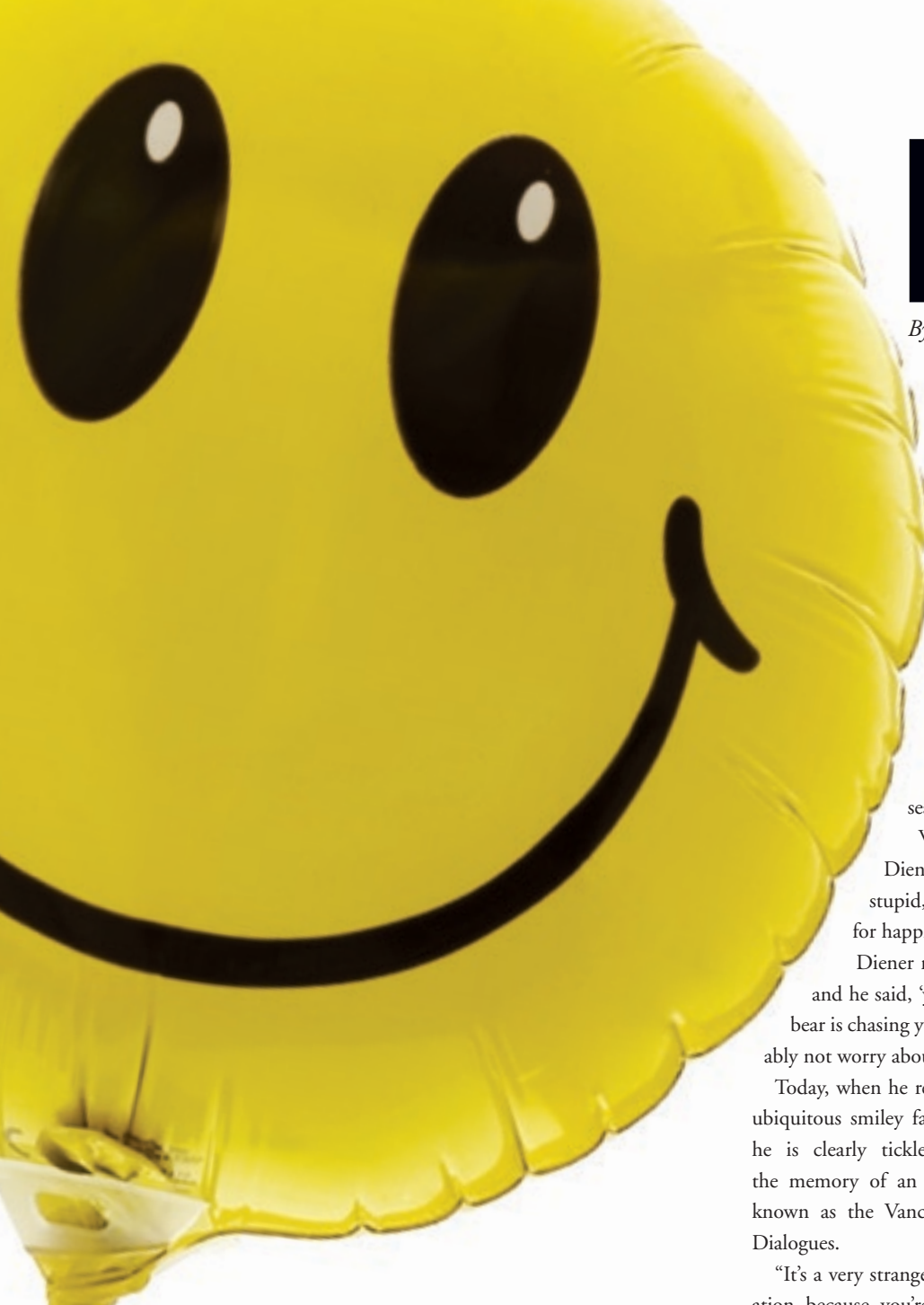
All this serious Brave New World talk does not daunt Littlefield’s assertion that lie detection has a light side to it. After all, Marston also publicly, if not infamously, used something called a “sphygmomanometer” to test the “love impulses” of blondes, redheads, and brunettes, a scene wryly captured in a 1928 *New Yorker* piece by E.B. White, who called the act a “wily piece of press agency.”

“It’s a technology with a history that’s just incredibly amusing and vibrant and dynamic,” Littlefield says. “I think a lot of technology functions that way and we just don’t know it. Here is a guy with a degree from Harvard in law and psychology and he’s writing comic books and performing these tests at the Embassy Theater on blondes, brunettes, and redheads.”

For the record, Marston found that brunettes respond more deeply to the love impulse. However, White did report that the blonde was holding Marston’s hand while she was tested.



English professor Melissa Littlefield found stories and novels as far back as 1909 featuring a device that resembles a lie detector; which wasn’t invented until the 1920s.



## Using science to discover the secrets to happiness.

# DR.

By Stephen J. Lyons

Happiness was the lingua franca when Ed Diener—a.k.a. Dr. Happy—finally met his match on an autumn evening in 2006 before 3,000 rapt souls in Vancouver, Canada. The LAS professor of psychology, and the guru of good feeling, sat attentively to the right of a man dressed in a crimson robe who had taken the subject of self-satisfaction to Himalayan heights.

“My main commitment is how to achieve a happy life, successful life,” said the Dalai Lama to no one and to everyone. “I feel for a happy, successful life, much depends on our mental attitude, our mental outlook.”

Exactly!, thought Diener, and, boy, do I have the research to prove it!

When it was his turn to “dialogue” with His Holiness, Diener quoted the French novelist Gustave Flaubert: “To be stupid, selfish, and have good health are three requirements for happiness, though if stupidity is lacking, all is lost.”

Diener remembers that the “Dali Lama laughed and laughed, and he said, ‘yeah, some kinds of happiness are just stupid. When a bear is chasing you and going to kill you, you better be afraid and probably not worry about being too happy, right?’”

Today, when he recalls this story, Diener grins, not quite as large as the ubiquitous smiley face on display in his Psychology Building office, but he is clearly tickled by the memory of an event known as the Vancouver Dialogues.

“It’s a very strange situation because you’re sort of talking with him, but you’re sort of not talking with him because there are so many people there.”

Subjective well-being—how people evaluate their lives—is Diener’s sweet spot of study. A case could

be made that he is the original founder of the research field. Diener’s list of accomplishments would even make the dourest of academics downright cheery. His citations number more than 12,000. Of his 180 publications, 140 are in the field of subjective well-being. He is the editor of *Perspectives on Psychological Science* and a senior scientist for the Gallup Organization.



Psychology professor Ed Diener is one of the founders of the growing field of subjective well-being—how people evaluate their lives. Studying the secrets of happiness has gained him fame as Dr. Happy.

# HAPPY

Among his numerous honors is the Distinguished Researcher Award from the International Society of Quality of Life Studies and the Oakley-Kundee Award for Undergraduate Teaching. He has been the subject of a host of media publications that include *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *Time*, and *Esquire*.

Diener has evaluated levels of well-being among Africa's Masai, Greenland's Inuit, and our own Amish. He has also compared satisfaction levels between the slum dwellers of Calcutta, India, with California's homeless. (Surprisingly, India's slum dwellers are happier. Diener found they have more family ties and more respect than their counterparts in California.)

The youngest of six children, Diener grew up on a tomato, cotton, and lettuce farm in California's San Joaquin Valley. "If you have ever eaten Mexican food, Italian food, tomato soup, or ketchup, you likely have partaken of some of our tomatoes." He was the curious and sometimes rebellious son (he climbed Golden Gate Bridge and experimented with gunpowder) of parents who always stressed the sunny side of life. "They were optimists, but also transmitted the idea that we must all work to improve the world. My four older sisters lavished attention on me, and made me think I was special. Because my parents almost never argued and never moved from their farm, the universe was a secure and benevolent place for me.

"Although I was no more special than anyone else, feeling secure and valued gave me a self-confidence that helped me take on new and big projects later in life."

As an undergraduate at California State University in Fresno, Diener proposed a research study on the happiness levels of nearby migrant workers. His professor promptly turned him down for two reasons: one, they are not happy and, two, there was no way to measure happiness. Diener tucked the idea away where it would not emerge again until many years later when he was awarded tenure at the U of I.

"It was a bit of a dangerous topic because it sounded kind of flaky. But once I got tenure I was free to do what I wanted. Critics wondered how can you measure happiness? But nobody ever said, 'Can you measure depression?' Psychologists studied depression from day one. Why would depression be any easier to measure than happiness?"

Diener found that it wasn't. Using the same rigorous empirical methods that other scientific disciplines employ, Diener found that high levels of happiness almost always led to better outcomes in life. "Happiness not only feels good but it's good for you. We know that happy people on average have

better health. Happy people live longer. Happy people have more friendships and are more likely to give money to charity compared to unhappy people."

Similar traits among the happy emerged: The happiest people seek out and enjoy good social relationships and possess stable mental health. Other factors that influence subjective well-being include genetics. The larger environment plays a role. Former Communist countries show lower rates of well-being than more affluent Western nations. The unemployed are less happy than the employed and married women on average are happier.

The obvious question arises when reviewing Diener's career: Is he truly happy or a victim of his own research findings? Is there extra pressure to be extra pleasing?

"So they call you Dr. Happy and it's like, gee, I'd hate to ever commit suicide or be unhappy. People would be so disappointed in me.

"But, no, on the serious side, just because you study happiness doesn't mean you're happy. My own assessment is that I am extremely high in life satisfaction, but I am only average in levels of positive moods. Turns out I have a pretty good life so I'm pretty happy. I recently said to my wife, [Carol Diener, LAS adjunct associate professor of psychology] 'You know we have a lot of good things going on in our lives.' And she said, 'Not really, it's just that you notice them more.'"



Diener shared the stage with the Dalai Lama as part of a dialogue on happiness, organized to inaugurate the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education in Vancouver, Canada, in September 2006.

**You can be too happy, according to recent studies by Diener. A life-satisfaction rating of 8 or 9 on a 10-point scale generally equates with greater success in life. Read more at: [www.las.uiuc.edu/news/2008Spring/08feb\\_happiness.html](http://www.las.uiuc.edu/news/2008Spring/08feb_happiness.html)**

## So Just How Satisfied Are You?

Professor Ed Diener's research proves that happiness not only feels good but it's also good for us. Happy people on average have better health and live longer. Happy people have more friendships, are more likely to give money to charity, and are more likely to perform better on the job.

Happiness and "life satisfaction" go hand-in-hand, and Diener has devised a simple test to assess your level of satisfaction. Below are five statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1 to 7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responses.

- 7 - Strongly agree
  - 6 - Agree
  - 5 - Slightly agree
  - 4 - Neither agree nor disagree
  - 3 - Slightly disagree
  - 2 - Disagree
  - 1 - Strongly disagree
- \_\_\_ In most ways my life is close to my ideal.
  - \_\_\_ The conditions of my life are excellent.
  - \_\_\_ I am satisfied with my life.
  - \_\_\_ So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.
  - \_\_\_ If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.

31-35 Extremely satisfied    26-30 Satisfied    21-25 Slightly satisfied    20 Neutral  
15-19 Slightly dissatisfied    10-14 Dissatisfied    5-9 Extremely dissatisfied





# LESSONS FROM LINCOLN

## WHAT OUR SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT CAN TEACH US ABOUT GREATNESS

BY HOLLY KORAB

**“IF YOU ONCE FORFEIT THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS,  
YOU CAN NEVER REGAIN THEIR RESPECT AND ESTEEM.”**  
—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

There’s an old saying that our country gets the president it deserves. More likely, however, is that every so often, the country is blessed with a great leader despite itself.

Such was the case with Abraham Lincoln. Though he had neither the résumé nor the breeding that hinted at his formidable gifts, he assumed the leadership of the country as it verged on self-destruction, and in so doing, was able to preserve the first democratic republic of any significance in more than a millennium. He possessed an extraordinary ability to unite political opponents behind his causes and to draw out the “better angels” in the nation’s collective nature. For these reasons and so many others, Lincoln is often ranked as our nation’s greatest president.

As the nation prepares again to choose another president—as well as to mark the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth—it is worthwhile to reflect on the lessons Lincoln can still teach us about the nature of greatness.

# 1. YOU CAN BE HUMBLE AND AMBITIOUS.

There is the part of the Lincoln legacy everyone knows—born in a log cabin, self-educated, and honest to his lanky bones. Recent scholarship has removed some of the saintliness from his character—Lincoln did not, after all, enter the Civil War intending to free the slaves. But it has also brought out the depth and complexity of his character. Lincoln, the man, was principled and possessed extraordinary intelligence and warmth even as he was shrewd, pragmatic, and supremely ambitious. By the time “the rail splitter” was elected president, he was a wealthy, successful lawyer who had represented some of the nation’s largest interests, such as the railroads.

Bruce Levine, the James G. Randall Professor of History at Illinois, believes it was Lincoln’s skill in reading the public that people too often attributed to divine inspiration. In so doing, they missed the first lesson Lincoln holds for us: saints can be shrewd.

“Lincoln was a man of deep convictions,” says Levine, “but beneath these convictions was a shrewdness that enabled him to read a situation and make tactical decisions.”

A case in point was Lincoln’s success in the 1860 election, says Levine. Although not a believer in racial equality, Lincoln had long opposed slavery as a moral wrong. And in 1856, he and the Republican party staked out what



was then a minority position, seeking to strangle slavery by containing it to the South. As the election neared, pressure mounted on the fledgling party to soften its stance to attract more votes. Lincoln adeptly steered his party away from backsliding, certain that the public would recognize the correctness of the position. His election in a four-way presidential contest proved him right.

Lincoln’s approach to emancipation was equally perceptive. He explored his options and waited until he was confident that the public was ready to embrace such a stand before making the declaration. Even so, it was a risky venture. Support wavered in response to the Union’s military fortunes. But Lincoln remained steadfast, confident it was the right decision, and refused to betray the black population.

Levine describes Lincoln as a “politician-educator” who believed he had a responsibility to elevate public opinion by nudging it in the direction best for democracy. As Lincoln’s justifications for war evolved from preserving

the Union to preserving a nation dedicated to principles worthy of great sacrifice, he redefined the nation’s understanding of equal rights.

Thus, in looking for a leader, pragmatism is a good companion to conviction.

# 2. To manage people well, it helps to genuinely like them.

During the early days of the Civil War, when the Union’s efforts met with continual defeat or stalemate, Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward paid an evening visit to the home of the Union’s contentious commander-in-chief, General George McClellan, to discuss war strategy. The general wasn’t at home, but Lincoln and Seward waited for more than an hour. When McClellan finally returned, he snubbed his visitors and proceeded straight to bed. Instead of chastising McClellan for his disrespectful behavior, Lincoln quietly left.

The story is often told to demonstrate Lincoln’s ability to place historical necessity above personal feelings, says David Herbert Donald, a Harvard historian and U of I graduate who wrote the bestselling biography, *Lincoln*.

“Lincoln reasoned that the war effort was more important than this slight to his dignity,” says Donald. “When McClellan later failed in battle, Lincoln was less forgiving.”

But Lincoln’s restraint in dealing with McClellan also highlights another lesson in greatness: ego must be kept in check to win friends and manage opponents. “There was a self-confidence underlying Lincoln’s modesty that enabled him to surround himself with strong, often discordant personalities,” says Donald.

Many of these people were chosen because Lincoln believed that each was the best qualified for the job. In other cases, such as retaining unity among the fractious Republican majority in Congress, Lincoln simply had to make the best of difficult situations, which he did magnificently.

One of his most powerful weapons for swaying others to his cause was his sense of humor. Donald says Lincoln used humor masterfully to disarm opponents and win supporters. A senator might march into Lincoln’s office to confront him about a bill only to leave befuddled and unsuccessful, after Lincoln sidlined him with a long, seemingly pointless anecdote from his days back in Illinois.

Yet more powerful than Lincoln’s humor was his genuine fondness for people, says Donald. When Orville Hickman Browning, Lincoln’s friend and closest confidant, refused to campaign for Lincoln’s re-election in 1864, following a disagreement over emancipation, their private conversations ceased but their relations did not.

“Lincoln never held grudges,” says Donald. “He easily separated political disagreements from personal ones.”

So, while it helps to be a good storyteller, a leader must have a solid sense of self.

# 3. Never stop learning.



Much has been made of Lincoln's flights of eloquence. His Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural Address rank among the most inspired speeches in American history.

Being able to motivate with words, though, is not the third lesson in leadership that either Levine or Donald take from Lincoln. More important than the gift of eloquence is the capacity for growth.

"The Lincoln of 1856 is not the Lincoln of 1860 and is not the Lincoln of 1865," says Levine. "He is constantly growing into his job. He was able to constantly re-evaluate, not dig in his heels, and rethink his position."

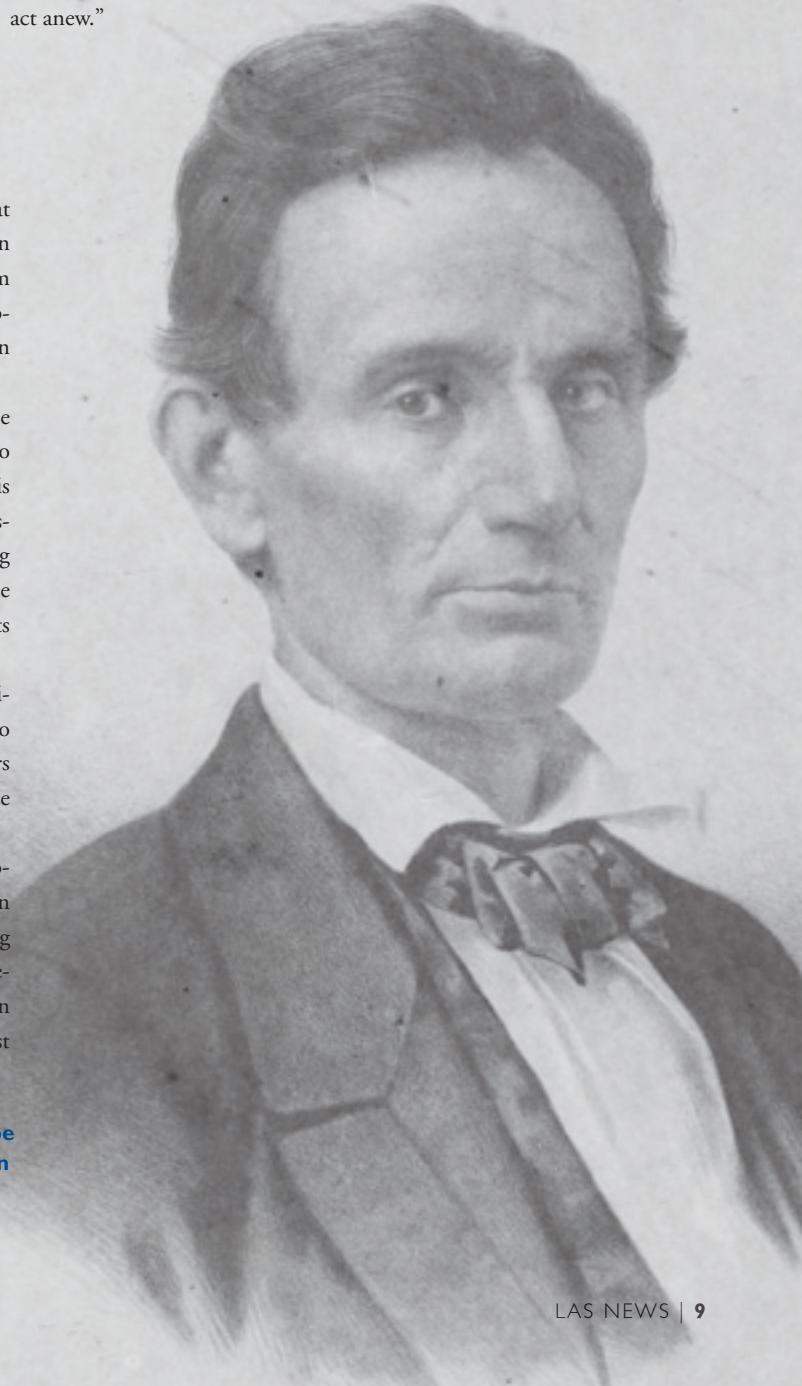
A case in point, says Levine, is that Lincoln came to the presidency with no military experience, yet sat down with the ranking generals of the army, read a load of books on military tactics, and, in short order, was a perceptive and able military commander.

But the most notable example was his change in position on racial equality. Although always opposed to slavery as a matter of human rights, it was through his friendship with the black abolitionist Frederick Douglass that, according to Donald, Lincoln came to insist upon a new understanding of liberty: "equality of opportunity in the race of life."

The fact that Lincoln grew in understanding—he progressed from being in step with the beliefs of his time to being capable of changing his own opinion as well as those of others—showed his supreme gift as a leader.

"Constancy—one might call it stubbornness—is not necessarily the trait we most admire or desire in a public figure," says Donald.

Lincoln held firm to only two goals—preserving the union and rule of law—and when criticized for his shifts in ground, his response captured his commitment to growth: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. The case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew."



Unfortunately, the most humbling lesson we can learn from Lincoln is that greatness is not a quality we can predict. In Lincoln's own day, Stephen Douglas's many years of experience made him the obvious choice. William Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, is so convinced of this backwoods bumpkin's ineptness, that he is certain he will have to run the administration. In time, Seward, like most people Lincoln met, changed his mind.

President John F. Kennedy once asked Donald, after a presentation at the White House on the Civil War, whether it was necessary for a president to fight a war in order to be great. Donald, sensing Kennedy's concern about his own legacy, assured him it was not, offering the example of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose greatest achievements were his peace-time efforts at shepherding the nation through the Depression. Kennedy's question was a variation of the old query of whether circumstances make the man. And "they do not," insists Donald, who cites examples of times of crisis when no leader emerged.

Because greatness can be neither conjured nor predicted, it is an unreliable gauge in selecting a president. Levine suggests that rather than trying to predict whether a candidate's record heralds the country's next savior, voters should instead ask the question favored by Lincoln: Does that record advance civilization in some way?

"Lincoln believed that the role of government was to elevate human society, to increase human rights, to do what people can't do for themselves in ways that genuinely strengthen democracy," says Levine. "Instead of looking for some sign of greatness, I think you have to know what direction you believe is the right one, then see who is going in that direction. A good citizen has the same qualities as a good leader but on a smaller scale. And the best Lincoln had to offer us was a mark that we have yet to come up to." ✨

**Upcoming events in U of I's Lincoln Bicentennial celebration will be announced in LAS's monthly e-newsletter. Subscribe by sending an email that includes your full name to [laseditor@uiuc.edu](mailto:laseditor@uiuc.edu).**

**Or visit [www.history.uiuc.edu/LincolnBicentennialLectureSeries.html](http://www.history.uiuc.edu/LincolnBicentennialLectureSeries.html)**

# AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

By Jodi Heckel

By Jodi Heckel

East St. Louis was once an All-American City. With good jobs, thriving business, successful schools, and close-knit neighborhoods, it earned that title in 1960.

Today, when Jennifer Hamer drives into the city, she can't help but notice the broken streetlights, backed-up sewer systems, and burned-out buildings that mark East St. Louis's decline to a reputedly dangerous and crime-ridden place. But Hamer, a University of Illinois sociology professor, believes that the people here are not so different from those in the rest of the country. She sees the city as a model of how working people with generally mainstream American values cope under depressed economic conditions.

In fact, Hamer might argue, East St. Louis could still be called an All-American City, because what's happened there is a symptom of what's being repeated in cities across the United States. Far from being exclusively an African American problem, she says, her recent study shows that life in East St. Louis reveals how people abandoned in a post-industrial world survive the changes.

"This is not [just] about East St. Louis," says Hamer, who has studied the city extensively. "This is what happens to a population when the state walks away. This is happening to all of America, when the state decides it's more important to invest in corporate America than people."

Hamer says the social contract between government and working families, where their taxes helped provide protections such as Social Security, workplace safety regulations, unemployment protection, and welfare, has been eroding since the 1970s. She sees corporations get tax breaks while services for individuals have been cut back.

In the early part of the 20th century, East St. Louis was becoming a major industrial giant, with the nation's second largest rail center. Home to firms such as Armour Company, National Stockyards, and Aluminum Ore Corp., the world's largest aluminum processing center, it was a draw for people looking for work, particularly immigrants and black families moving out of the South.

It was a booming time. Residents frequented lively nightclubs or they could stroll down Collinsville Avenue and take in a movie at the Majestic Theatre, a downtown landmark with its



The aspirations of residents of East St. Louis are basically the same as people living in middle- and upper-income communities, argues sociology professor Jennifer Hamer. They care about providing for their family. Circumstances, she says, often force them to pursue what she calls "clean" and "dirty" hustles, which enforce the city's image as crime-ridden.

The overwhelmingly African American population of East St. Louis has been blamed for the city's rampant poverty and social ills. What if failed public policy was the real cause, and may soon decimate other cities?



“The question is whether, as a society, the U.S. is just willing to see these places abandoned and think they are different than the whole rest of the nation.”

Moorish-style architecture, marble lobby, and three-tiered balcony.

In 1960, *Look* magazine and National Municipal League called East St. Louis an All-American City, but in reality the city's fortunes had by then reversed. Its population was in decline from its peak of more than 82,000 in 1950, and major employers were leaving in search of non-union labor and lower taxes to the south and west. White residents followed the exodus—the city lost almost half its population between 1960 and 1990.

When the manufacturing plants closed, other businesses followed. The same year East St. Louis was named an All-American City, the Majestic closed.

Those left behind were the poorest, primarily black, residents, with the fewest means to move in search of new jobs. The options for black workers were also limited by racial discrimination, as they couldn't get work or housing in suburban areas.

With fewer residents paying taxes, the city could not support services and maintain infrastructure. Property values fell, and the city borrowed money to meet its operating costs. The situation became so dire in 1985 that East St. Louis became the first city to have its public housing managed directly from Washington, D.C.

In 1990, the state took over control of the city's budget, leaving local officials without the authority to spend money on police protection, fire trucks, maintaining streets and sewers, or demolishing dilapidated buildings.

The burden on working people increased as the city lost jobs, residents, and tax revenue, and taxes were increased to pay public debts. Although they were paying more taxes, residents received fewer services. Schools, parks, and libraries suffered. Swimming pools, concession stands, and tennis courts vanished.

“It's harder to live in East St. Louis,” says lifelong resident Sharon Ward, 52. “They make it almost impossible for you to be a homeowner. You're paying higher taxes because there's no tax base. The few homeowners that are here are

having to take the brunt of the burden to keep things afloat.”

The trend disintegrated daily life. Ward remembers walking to school as a child and playing on the playground with friends. Her parents owned their home, and she helped her mother in their vegetable garden. Church was central to the family, and so was education.

“At that time, everybody on our street, we knew,” she says. “Everybody on our street, we would play with their kids, and they knew our parents. We could go back and forth to their homes.”

Today, however, Prince Gerry, an unemployed father of an 11-year-old son, walks his boy to and from school every day to protect him from bullies. Josh Cowan instructed his son how to act if stopped by police—don't move unless they say to, always carry ID, don't be alone, and stay away from white women. Resident Arnie Miller worries about his children finding a used hypodermic needle on the ground, or someone trying to get them to try crack.

Manufacturing jobs have been replaced by relatively low-paying service jobs. Many people must look outside city limits for employment. Most average a half-hour commute, often on public transportation, for jobs that pay minimum wage. Resident Jarvis Miles, for example, commutes four hours a day for a job at McDonald's.

In response to the poor conditions, residents do what they must to make ends meet, Hamer says. That could include working more than one job or putting off retirement—she's seen 73-year-olds cleaning homes. They've also resorted to hustling, which could mean anything from odd jobs to crime.

Many residents told Hamer they didn't aspire to illegal activity, but “dirty” hustles such as drugs, theft, and prostitution offered far more money than they earned at a minimum-wage job. Others opted for a “clean” hustle, which isn't illegal but brings in extra money, such as cutting grass, hauling trash in their pickup, sewing, or cutting hair.

“You do your minimum-wage job from nine to five or whatever, and then you make your real money after hours,” resident Stacy Lee told Hamer. “That's the way you have to do it and, hopefully, nobody'll be the wiser.”

The clean hustles, Hamer adds, also tended to meet a legitimate need in the community.

David Roediger, a U of I professor of history and African American studies, says this story is not unique to East St. Louis. Similar population losses are happening in places such as St. Louis and Detroit, he says.

“There are a lot of parts of cities where that same thing is happening, so I think it speaks to national realities, not just these cities,” Roediger says. “The question is whether, as a society, the U.S. is just willing to see these places abandoned and think they are different than the whole rest of the nation.”

The solution to these problems, Hamer says, would require a restructuring of the social contract so government is investing in working people, not corporations. Rather than offer tax incentives to businesses, the government should guarantee a living wage job, transportation, and a quality education for all citizens and pay for it by taxing corporations more.

She says industries succeed because the cities where they are located provide workers and infrastructure, and they, in turn, should support the community through taxes. She would like to see industry tied to a community so that if it left, it would have to compensate the community financially for the loss of jobs.

Whether increasing the tax burden on corporations and their formal obligations to local communities would slow the outflow of jobs outside the U.S., or even to other areas within the country, is open to debate. However, to Hamer, it's about social responsibility.

“They're not radical ideas. They're reasonable ideas,” Hamer says. “As wealthy as the United States is, no one should have to go without.” ■

# GOOD MEMORIES

*The inevitable declines in memory that accompany aging may not be as bad as we all think. LAS researchers are discovering ways to keep memory loss at bay.*

*By Jim Dey and Doug Peterson*

Dorothy DiIorio, a '49 LAS alumna, has watched many friends and acquaintances lose contact with life as their memories fade and their ability to make new ones becomes painfully difficult. Losing a key part of what made them vital individuals was a heartbreaking sight, and one DiIorio was determined to avoid when she retired 10 years ago. That's why she began exercising every day and staying active.

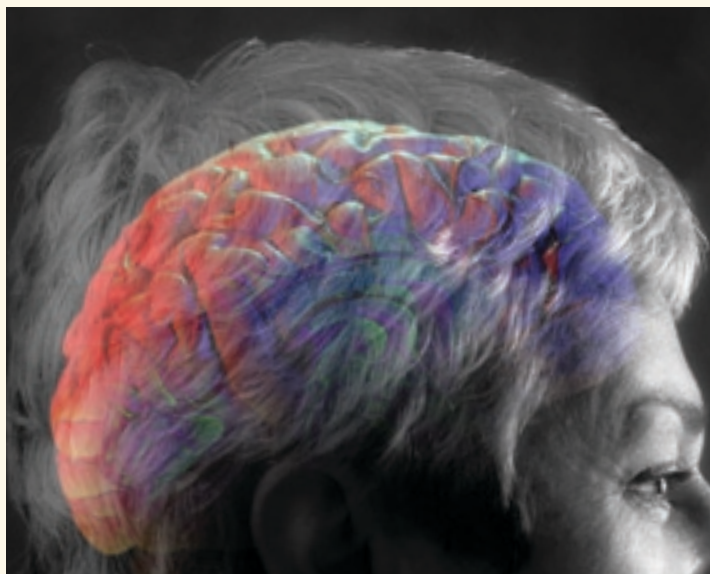
It's a regimen that researchers in LAS confirm may hold a key for remaining mentally sharp.

We're at our mental peak when we're young, according to conventional wisdom; and as the years pass, it's a slow, steady, and inevitable downhill slide. This disheartening perception, though, is not necessarily reality, say LAS researchers.

As evidence, a team led by LAS psychology professor Arthur Kramer was the first to use high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging to show anatomical differences in the brains of physically fit and less-fit, aging people. These scans showed that cardiovascular exercise preserved regions of the brain's gray matter, the layers of tissue and support cells critically involved in learning and memory.

Kramer and U of I kinesiology professor Ed McAuley also showed that moderate exercise—something as simple as 45 minutes of walking each day—could reverse age-related brain deterioration and even increase brain volume in older adults.

"Ten years ago, you would never have expected to see this in older adults," Kramer says.



Kramer's work is only one piece of an extensive network of LAS research that is probing the mysteries found deep within the three-pound nerve center of the human body—the brain. In fact, the U of I has become a nerve center in its own right, known worldwide for its research on memory and aging.

Even as long ago as the 1970s, LAS researchers were dispelling long-standing myths about memory. At that time, the scientific community believed the human brain was immutable. But psychology professor William Greenough proved that the brain literally changes in response to new stimulation, opening up a whole new world for researchers. The result was the groundbreaking concept of brain function known as plasticity, or the brain's ability to change its function and structure on the basis of new experience.

Greenough's research, which showed that the brain is similar to a muscle that can be built up through use, has produced reforms in many fields, from early learning to neural biology. In terms of memory, his discovery of brain plasticity has led to new studies showing that people can enhance their cognition by exercising both their minds and bodies.

Memory, the sum of our experiences, is the glue that holds each individual personality together. And as longevity has increased, people, particularly aging baby boomers, have grown increasingly concerned with maintaining their mental edge.

But U of I psychology professor Paul Gold says that the decline in memory with age "isn't as dramatic as the public believes. Benign aging is probably nothing that interferes with lifestyle. I can't

run as fast as I used to run. But I still do it, and it's the same thing with memory."

In creating memories, information entering



Psychology professor  
Arthur Kramer

the brain is transmitted by neurons, the nerve cells that make up the brain and serve as signaling units. Each neuron connects with other neurons through physical junctions called synapses. The brain contains up to 1,000 trillion synapses, storing memories in this intricate biological power grid.

It was once believed that brains do not create new neurons, but that notion has long been discredited. What's more, brains do not lose as many neurons with age as was once thought, says psychology professor Donna Korol.

According to Korol, there is generally some shrinking of the brain with age, particularly in the frontal cortical areas, perhaps because of decreased white matter volume, less blood flow to the brain, or other factors. However, she says, "though there seems to be some reduction in volume, there is not a substantial loss of neurons, which is a bit counter to the dogma about old brains."

Memories are divided into categories. A short-term memory, like that of the telephone number of a local pizzeria, can last only as long as needed to make the call, say 15 to 30 seconds, and then disappear. But the more frequently a customer calls that pizza restaurant, the more likely the telephone number will be remembered.

Long-term memory is further subdivided into categories—declarative memory for facts, faces, or places that have grown familiar, and procedural memory for muscle memory, like that involved in activities such as typing or riding a bicycle. Declarative and procedural memories are processed by separate areas of the four lobes that make up the cerebral cortex.

A third category of long-term memory is the so-called "flashbulb memory," a memory associated with a traumatic event like a presidential assassination or a personal event like an engagement or a wedding.

Age-related memory change begins in people around 35 to 40, but that's not necessarily a negative. Former LAS professor Denise Park, who is now at the University of Texas at Dallas, says her research has shown that as an individual's ability to process information slows with age, the individual's "knowledge base," which is necessary for good judgment, grows through experience in life and can only come with the passage of time.

It seems the aphorism that wisdom comes with age has a scientific basis.

"That's why we don't have 20-year-olds running the world, even though the data clearly show that 20-year-olds are better at processing information," Park says.

However, that optimistic view might be a tough sell to older people who experience memory changes they associate with decline.

Gold described one difficulty as "a tip-of-the-tongue problem," a processing issue that refers to circumstances when people can't put a name with a familiar face or provide answers to questions they should know.

Another, he says, is "rapid forgetting," which stems from difficulty storing new information. Gold attributes "rapid forgetting" to a decline in the production of an arousal hormone that helps seal a memory in the brain. If an event is mundane, the mind is not aroused, the hormone is produced at a lower rate, and the memory is lost.

"So if nothing arouses the brain, we don't remember as well," Gold says.

Other hormones, such as estrogens, also play a role in memory, says Korol. Studies in rats show

that as estrogen levels rise across the reproductive cycle, the number of synapses also rises; and when estrogen levels plummet, the number of synapses declines. This raises the question of what happens to learning and memory when an aging woman's estrogen levels drop after menopause.

Korol found that while some learning strategies decline as estrogen levels drop, other learning strategies actually improve. For example, rats with low estrogen levels were better at remembering the route to food by using a "stimulus-response" strategy, in which they used either a single right or left turn. But they were worse at remembering the route to food when they used a "place strategy"—following the configuration of cues in the environment, such as the layout of posters and bookcases in the laboratory.

For rats given estrogen, the effectiveness of the learning strategies was reversed.

"The assumption is that aging leads to a decline in learning and memory," Korol says. "But I am a believer that with age come changes in information processing. Some changes are for the better and some for the worse, similar to that seen following estrogen treatment."

Korol also says that memory is more than just a strengthening of the synapses. Sometimes the formation of new memories calls for a weakening of synapses. She compares it to sculpture, which requires an artist to remove material to create the desired shape.

"So I don't think forgetting is all bad," Korol explains. "We need to forget certain information in order to form new frameworks. If you remembered everything you were exposed to, you wouldn't be able to function."

"I like what a student of mine once wrote on a midterm exam," she adds. "He said, 'Old brains are not necessarily bad at remembering. They're just good at forgetting.'"



Psychology professor  
Donna Korol



Psychology professor  
Paul Gold

*"That's why we don't have 20-year-olds running the world, even though the data clearly show that 20-year-olds are better at processing information."*

40

*By Stephen J. Lyons*



# POLISH EMIGRANTS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



# CREATING A SURROGATE HOME IN LANGUAGE

*During the many years when the people of Poland were forced to speak the language of its enemy occupiers, exiled writers preserved the language and the nation's cultural touchstones.*

The free flow of a native language is taken for granted until war or other upheavals disrupt that exchange. No one feels that more keenly than the writer, whose job it is to keep alive those words that in the aftermath of disaster have evolved from the commonplace to the sacred.

George Gasyna, LAS assistant professor of Polish literature and comparative literature, says language is “a sign of identity. It’s a primal signifier of identity, and when that is threatened, identity is also.”

“Transnational” is the term Gasyna uses to describe Polish writers who penned their writings outside of their native land. That term certainly applies to iconic Polish poet and writer Czeslaw Milosz, who once wrote in a poem, “My faithful language, / I have served you. / Every night I have set before you little bowls with color / ... You were my homeland because the other one had gone missing.”

Gasyna teaches classes aimed at “heritage speakers,” students who have parents or grandparents of Polish ethnicity and who want to connect to that familial history.

He can certainly relate to those students’ goals. His native Poland, where he lived until the age of 12 before his family immigrated to Canada, is a country whose recent history is marked by brutal occupation and the subsequent suppression of its language. The need for “exilic” or “émigré literature” began for Poland at the end of the 18th century, when the nation was conquered on three

fronts by neighboring Germany, Russia, and Austria. The trend continued through the “Russification” years in the 19th century, through the brutal Nazi occupation in the last century, and finally ending with the fall of Communism.

During those periods, Gasyna says that Polish was outlawed, the media suppressed, and intellectuals muzzled. Much of the activity of publishing and creativity moved outside of Poland to France and later to the United States.

“Once you have to speak the language of who is occupying your land, there’s an unconscious submission to their language. It’s the language of the other, who is occupying you and, of course, there’s the surveillance aspect of it. You can’t be clandestine about anything when you have to use a public language. That reduces the possibility of opposition.

“Language is certainly a weapon because it is such a key correlative to identity. It has an emotional valence that the same word spoken in the language of the occupier would not have. When you wipe that out it is easier to control that population.”

The exiled keepers of the Polish language were also preserving the nation’s cultural touchstones. “Initially, art was smuggled out, then a lot of publication activity that was thwarted would be re-established by the same publishers and the same writers who would publish abroad,” says Gasyna.

Gasyna is amazed at how the Polish language has survived intact despite its many disruptions.

“In the everyday sense, the language of the host country does creep in but, I do find that writers and publishers do find a way to somehow separate themselves from that in their work. There’s a purity there that really is quite puzzling and extraordinary given that the temporal distance is amplified by being away from the cultural center. If you read the writing of Witold Gombrowicz or Milosz, their Polish is unfettered by any kind of styling or borrowings. It’s a very pure Polish.”

Purity perhaps overstates what Gasyna wants to teach his students. Most importantly, he would like to feed their ancestral curiosity and to show them that language is precious and should never be taken for granted.

“Their Polish may be less than perfect, but they’re interested in taking the courses here because they want to understand better where their parents or grandparents came from or what the country that their relatives left was like. There’s a curiosity there that has to do not only with physical geography but also with the mental maps of places.” ■



George Gasyna's classes in Polish language and culture, which are directed at students whose parents and grandparents emigrated from Poland, feeds students' curiosity about their heritage and, he hopes, demonstrates that language is precious.



# A CLASSIC REDISCOVERED

**The *Timaeus*—the most influential book you’ve never heard of.**

By Paul Wood

There’s a good chance you haven’t read the *Timaeus*. But there’s an even better chance you know some of it. The dialogue is Plato’s account of the creation of the universe, the nature of the physical world, and humanity’s place in the cosmos.

You get a hint of it every time you hear a retelling of the story of the lost continent of Atlantis. You hear echoes of the *Timaeus*’s ideas in the Gospel of John, and even more in the traditions of the Christian church. It was the vehicle through which the Early Church Fathers fused the ethics of the New Testament with the metaphysics of ancient Greece. When early Renaissance thinkers were creating the modern world, it was the only book written by the philosopher Plato that they knew.

Although it was written 2,300 years ago, even a Nobel Prize-winning physicist like Anthony Leggett can and has gained insights from it about the newest thinking in physics and astronomy. Leggett, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor and Center for Advanced Study professor of physics at U of I, says what is wonderful about the *Timaeus* is “its timelessness—its ideas that seem both eternal and entirely new—its wealth of ideas, which in turn suggest new ideas.”

This timeless quality is behind a resurgence in interest in the classic and the reason that LAS

hosted a conference last fall devoted solely to the book, says Richard Mohr, an LAS professor of philosophy and classics. His 1985 book about *The Platonic Cosmology* was one of the first in a spate of new works published about the *Timaeus*, which Mohr says has influenced everything from Euclid’s compendium of geometry to the philosophy of St. Augustine to modern environmental-

ists who view the Earth as a living and evolving entity, Gaia.

“People are hankering for substance and connections,” says Mohr, “and the *Timaeus* provides an ultimately connected universe: in it, all modes of thought and ways of being make sense within a single rational frame.”

Classics and philosophy professor Barbara Sattler, on first reading the *Timaeus* as a young philosophy student, was astonished by its sheer volume of ideas.

“I thought it was totally crazy,” she says. “But it contains everything you would ever want to discuss in philosophy.”

Written in the 4th century B.C., the *Timaeus* represents the mature thought of Plato expressed through his chosen mouthpieces: Socrates, his hero; Critias, his great-grandfather; and the lesser-known and possibly fictional Timaeus. A consensus of classical scholars has recently returned

the *Timaeus* to the late Platonic group of dialogues, requiring its being rethought in relation to the whole course of ancient philosophy, Mohr says.

Sattler says it is clear from the Greek that this is Plato near the end of his life. It is a brave and bold rethinking of Plato’s philosophies already famous in the

ancient world through works like *The Parmenides* and *The Republic*. They are brave even for a philosopher today. The *Timaeus* is full of a startling variety of thoughts, Leggett points out, beginning with an exposition of an ideal state similar to the one Plato discussed in his *Republic*. It’s a conservative ideal in some ways, but Mohr notes that the philosopher is full of surprises—he’s a feminist



Richard Mohr, an LAS professor of philosophy and classics, says *Timaeus* has influenced everything from geometry to the philosophy of St. Augustine to modern environmentalism.



in counting women among the philosopher-kings of his ideal *Republic*, where the wisest rule.

The section that follows contains the most quoted lines from Plato. Socrates's friend Critias relates the myth of the island-continent Atlantis. The culture is technologically advanced, but not the philosophical equal of Athens. Mohr says Plato is the first to write of

the myth, and almost certainly invented it.

And the myth endures. Mohr notes, "The dialogue is the basis of the Walt Disney movie *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* and is the source of the yuppies-with-children Caribbean resort, Atlantis, which advertises itself with the slogan, 'Change worlds,'" Mohr notes among other influences.

As Critias tells the story, in Benjamin Jowett's translation:

*"For these histories tell of a mighty power which unprovoked made an expedition against the whole of Europe and Asia, and to which your city (Athens) put an end. This power came forth out of the Atlantic Ocean, for in those days the Atlantic was navigable; and there was an island situated in front of the straits which are by you called the Pillars of Heracles; the island was larger than (Africa) and Asia put together.... Now in this island of Atlantis there was a great and wonderful empire which had rule over the whole island and several others, and over parts of the continent, and, furthermore, the men of Atlantis had subjected the parts of Libya within the columns of Heracles as far as Egypt, and of Europe as far as Tyrrhenia."*

Atlantis then went after Athens in war, Critias relates, an idealized Athens. Plato is far less satisfied with the Athens of his own times, the city that forced Socrates to commit suicide, among other sins which forever darkened Plato's vision, Mohr says. "Afterwards there occurred violent earth-



Written 2,300 years ago, Plato's *Timaeus* has influenced philosophy and religion for centuries. Though conservative in many ways, it contains such radical ideas as counting women among the philosopher-kings of his ideal republic, where the wisest rule.

quakes and floods; and in a single day and night of misfortune all your warlike men in a body sank into the earth, and the island of Atlantis in like manner disappeared in the depths of the sea."

Plato's purpose for the myth could be one of many, Mohr says. Socrates, Plato's teacher, advocates building the minds of young leaders upon the proper myths of the Republic. These are myths, not of adulterous and warring gods and goddesses, but myths that teach noble and virtuous thoughts. Plato may also be making a point about Greek-centered historians who conceive of history beginning with the Trojan War.

"Plato had a nostalgia for an idealized, conservative past of Athens," Mohr says. The bulk of *Timaeus* is about the creation of the world from chaos, then humanity, finally animals and plants. The creator is called the Demiurge, or craftsman, a single powerful god whose handiwork is limited only by the materials he must make the world from. Plato's notion of world-strips brings to mind String Theory, the now-popular idea that space and time and matter are built of units that are one-dimensional extended strings, rather than the zero-dimensional points of the older particle-theory of physics.

"The world-material was chaos with a certain cussedness to it," Mohr says. Plato reverts to a more conventional polytheism in assigning lesser tasks to lesser gods. But overall his description of the creator is monotheistic, and, as Sattler points out, something the Early Church Fathers could

relate to the account given in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

St. Augustine, the author of the *Confessions*, created the masterpiece synthesis of Plato and the Bible. Then, in the Middle Ages, Mohr notes, the *Timaeus* was the only work of Plato known to Western thinkers. The Greek language was lost to the West, but the *Timaeus* had been translated into

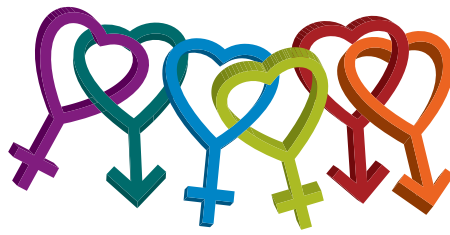
Latin, the lingua franca of the time, first by Cicero and then by Calcidius, whose version survives.

Thus, in the early Renaissance, all that Western philosophers knew about physics came from the *Timaeus* and a few works of Aristotle, Mohr points out.

The reason most people today haven't heard of the *Timaeus*, explains Mohr, is that Plato's Republic has been the "in" thing to teach in introductory philosophy and political science courses during the past few decades because of its emphasis on ethics and politics. "But now, with God-talk much in the air, publishers are bringing out student-oriented editions of the *Timaeus*."

"The *Timaeus* is a theory of everything, like String theory. I have a suspicion that Plato is not as good a mathematician as he's made out to be," says George Francis, an LAS mathematics professor who is contacting mathematicians worldwide for their opinions. Leggett says that even if Plato didn't have all the answers about the physical world, he knew the right questions:

"What are the relationships of the laws of nature one would like to regard as eternal and unvarying? It's obvious from the start, he didn't have the kinds of experimental tools, or background knowledge we have today. So I think it would be rather pointless to look in Plato for specific amounts of dark matter in the universe. He asks questions that are very general, some of which we haven't answered today." ■



# LOVE KNOWS NO GENDER

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS.**

*By Stephen J. Lyons*

When Glenn Roisman launched one of the largest multi-method studies to date to determine the quality of romantic relationships among same-sex couples as compared to opposite sex couples, he realized the results would be discussed in relation to the current contentious debate regarding gay marriage in this country. Unlike that debate, usually fraught with heated opinion instead of rational fact, the LAS assistant professor of psychology and a winner of an early Scientific Achievement Award from the Society for Research in Child Development, approached his task as a good, old-fashioned empirical question.

“Science hardly gets any air time with respect to this issue. I do a lot of basic science work that is usually framed in terms of a theoretical argument that gets built up from within the science. So what’s odd about this research in particular is you sort of have to start with those non-scientific stereotypes that people have.

“My primary interest was taking a series of theoretical questions that come from attachment theory that have almost exclusively been addressed within the context of opposite sex relationships over to the realm of same-sex relationships.”

Attachment theory is the tendency to seek closeness to another person and feel secure when that person is present.

Results of Roisman’s study show that there are few detectable differences in the quality of relationships between committed same-sex couples and committed engaged and married heterosexual couples. High rates of security exist in gay and lesbian relationships.

Additionally Roisman found that lesbian couples tend to resolve a conflict a little more effectively than heterosexual couples. Although the

study did not attempt to solve the reason why there was better interaction among female couples, Roisman says his findings were consistent with previous studies.

“Those investigators found that lesbian couples are more likely than heterosexuals to endorse an ethic of equality in their relationships, which may in part explain our findings. An alternative possibility is simply that it is easier to interact with someone of the same sex.”

**“THROUGH LONG-TERM STUDIES OF THIS KIND WE’VE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE QUALITY OF EARLY EXPERIENCES IS ASSOCIATED WITH FUTURE ADULT BEHAVIOR.”**

This study of couples from rural and semi-rural areas of Champaign County examined the quality of same- and opposite-sex relationships through “self- and partner-reports, laboratory observations, and measures of physiological reactivity” in couples’ interactions.

During long interviews, subjects were also measured by the narratives they told about their early childhood experiences. The manner in which those stories are told is key, Roisman says, because they are associated with success or failure in both future adult relationships and in parenting. “We’re primarily interested in the coherence of those narratives because individuals who tell an internally consistent, complete, and relevant story about their early experiences are more effective in their romantic relationships and are more effective with their children.”

That important narrative of childhood experience in adult couples dovetails well with the

primary focus of much of the research that Roisman conducts. He is a co-principal investigator on a longitudinal study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of more than 1,000 children who have been tracked from one month of age to, currently, 15 years old. He also served as a graduate student on a similar study of infants into adulthood.

“Through long-term studies of this kind we’ve been able to demonstrate that the quality of

early experiences is associated with future adult behavior.

“For example, children who, as infants, had a secure relationship with their mother tend to have a good, high-quality relationship with their romantic partner.”

Same sex couples on average told coherent stories about their early experiences. Roisman’s conclusion? “Same-sex couples are among the most secure individuals we’ve seen in the laboratory across all the kinds of couples we’ve studied.”

Roisman knows the findings by himself and graduate student Eric Clausell may not change negative views toward gay parenting or gay marriage but he is pleased to know that he has added scientific facts to the debate. “Whenever you do work focused on issues that people in society are talking about, you want to be careful to do things well and to be as objective as you can be.” ■

# The Power of the Pen

## Cartoons pack punch prior to U.S. war on Iraq.

By Laura Weisskopf Bleill

The scene: an Arab leader with his macho mustache, looking tough and manly, brashly addresses his own people. But in the next panel, the same Arab leader appears sheepish and effete—his mustache limp and wimpy—while talking to the United States.

This political cartoon appeared in a Palestinian newspaper in late 2002, during a critical period of widespread dissent and protest against the impending U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

It was one of many that appeared in a cross-section of newspapers from the Arab world collected and analyzed by Colin Flint, a geography professor in LAS. The cartoons are significant because they express the Arab world's objections to the war, and more specifically, to the American portrayal of the imminent conflict as moral and just.

"The cartoons were a way to show dissent, primarily to Arab leaders," Flint says. "I think the purpose of those cartoons is to show dissent among Arab populations to Arab leaders."

Flint and his research collaborators (Gzahi-Walid Falah of the University of Akron and Virginie Mamadouh of the University of

Amsterdam) focused on a three-week period in November 2002, about four months before the U.S. initiated "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Flint says U.S. leaders had waged a rhetorical campaign—internationally and domestically—to show that military actions in Iraq were indeed justified because as the world's hegemonic (dominant) power, it was the responsibility of the U.S. to disseminate and protect its values.

Around the globe, Flint says, that argument was considered specious. Several of the cartoons portray the U.S. as having an imperialistic agenda, and depict the potential military intervention as unjust since, in their view, it was not for humanitarian reasons or in self-defense.

The cartoons are critical of U.S. policies toward the United Nations, which they portray as duplicitous—while the U.S. demands certain UN resolutions, it ignores others. Some use the American alliance with Israel—a sworn enemy of the Arab nations—as evidence that the U.S. is immoral.

But most of all, the cartoons show the Arab world's opposition to what they perceived to be a violation of political and literal boundaries.

"The rest of the world maintains the ideology of territorial sovereignty," Flint says. "I think that's important to emphasize. In practice, territoriality is violated all the time—economically, culturally, as well as politically. But I think the point of the cartoons was that belief that sovereignty is still a strong political force, and can be used to mobilize societies."

The lack of a free press in the majority of the Arab nations meant that perhaps the only way to insert this critique into the court of public opinion was via a political cartoon.

"It was seen as a way of getting really anti-Arab government messages into not just the newspaper, but into the public forum, in a way that you couldn't really write an article or an op-ed piece," Flint says. "In a way those cartoons were the most subversive."

The cartoons address a very specific event in time and space, but the message of the cartoons is still relevant today. They serve as a reminder of the worldwide opposition to the Iraq War before the first missiles were ever fired, something people may have forgotten six years into the conflict.

However, Flint says, the "justification for putting American troops across the globe is still ongoing.

"What I (find) myself doing is going increasingly back in time to take a look at these things. So I'm actually doing a lot of work and reading right now on the Korean War.

... To me, this was the first military act post-World War II where the United States has really assumed the role of hegemonic power."



In Arab countries where the press is tightly controlled, cartoons are a powerful way for Arabs to show their dissent towards the Iraq war to their leaders.



# THE POLITICS OF FOOD

## A BONE OF CONTENTION

By Doug Peterson

It's been called "the Orient Express." In New York City, the Number 7 train travels from Times Square into the older neighborhoods of Queens, where you can find the city's "other Chinatown." From the train's elevated tracks, passengers can look down on one of the largest Asian immigrant communities in the country.

This is also the train that pro baseball player John Rocker described in his infamous statements in 1999 when he called the train ride "depressing" because he was surrounded by so many foreigners. As he put it in *Sports Illustrated*, "I'm not a very big fan of foreigners"—one of many statements that nearly sunk his career.

At the heart of Queens lies Flushing, where visitors find a smorgasboard of Asian restaurants. Flushing is also at the heart of the tension in New York between Asian immigrants and more established ethnic groups—a tension symbolized by the clash of food styles and the smells of exotic cuisines, says Martin Manalansan, an LAS anthropology professor who has tracked "the politics of food" in New York City for more than 10 years now.

"Food is an easy medium for discussion and enjoyment and exploration of other cultures," he says. "But it's also a way of looking at immigrant struggles and politics in the city."

For example, one local politician made it part of her platform to "bring back the old Flushing," harkening back to a time when the community was predominantly Jewish and Italian. As she toured Flushing, Manalansan says, this politician pointed out the strange food items and exotic restaurant signs—symbols of the newer, more "foreign" Flushing.

"Asian Americans have historically been directly associated with food and indirectly with specific aromas," Manalansan says. "Filipinos, Koreans, and Vietnamese have been branded as dogeaters. The Chinese have been accused of cooking and eating cats, rats, and every animal imaginable."

Even food odor can create a stigma among Asian residents. Manalansan cites the case of "Gloria," who worries about the food smells in her apartment. She is particularly concerned that smells will mark her household as "immigrant"—or, even worse, as FOB (Fresh Off the Boat).

In one incident, Gloria was shocked when an office supervisor made a surprise visit to her home just after she had cooked binagoongan, a pork dish made with fermented shrimp paste.

"The whole house reeked of the shrimp paste. It was embarrassing," she told Manalansan.

A pair of Asian realtors also told Manalansan they advise homeowners to cook something American, such as pot roast or apple pie, before showing their home. The realtors argued that strong Asian food smells put off homebuyers, even Asian homebuyers.

Asian businessmen, meanwhile, are concerned about "foreign" smells when they put on their "public and occupational personas." As one of them said, "I want people to smell Calvin Klein and not my wife's curries."

Manalansan, an immigrant himself who came to the United States from the Philippines when he was 22, is writing a book on the politics of food entitled *Altered Tastes*. In it, he not only addresses the meaning of food and smells in an urban environment such as New York City, he also deals with labor issues in the food industry—an industry that has been linked to Asian workers since they first became employed in large numbers in agriculture and food processing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the book, he says, food is a metaphor for what's happening in Asian immigrant communities. "Food becomes a way to think about the complicated and conflict-ridden struggles of immigrants," he says.

For some, however, food also can be seen as a way to unite people. As one Indian American restaurant owner told Manalansan, "I know it is easy to like curry and still hate Indians and other South Asians.... But food is a way of coming together. So it's a start. We have to start somewhere. Right?"



Tensions between Asian immigrants and more established ethnic groups in many cities is symbolized by the clash of food styles and the smells of exotic cuisines, reports anthropologist Martin Manalansan.

## True Feelings: At Some Point, Taking a Chance on Love Means Confiding Your Real Feelings



a serious dating relationship, a couple eventually needs to confide their true feelings. Once they do so, if they discover that they're on the same page, then uncertainty and anxiety subside and the relationship develops. "Now they feel much more free to talk about topics that they had previously avoided," Knobloch says.

You've just started dating someone and things are going well. On one hand, you think, this person could be The One. On the other hand, you don't know how your partner feels, so you are reluctant to bring up the topic at all for fear of jeopardizing the relationship.

Sound like a scene from a Woody Allen movie? Actually, it's a surprisingly familiar scenario in the beginning stages of relationships. In a study conducted among U of I undergraduates, Leanne Knobloch, an LAS assistant professor of speech communication, found that many people would rather keep silent than talk with their partner about how things were progressing in the relationship.

Knobloch calls this tendency topic avoidance. In her study, she discovered that those who were most uncertain about a relationship also reported the most topic avoidance. "They are strategically avoiding information that might clarify things," Knobloch says.

Topic avoidance is a way to deal with the uncertainty and anxiety of not knowing how your partner feels, she says. But in order to transition from casual dating to

## Worrywarts: Excessive Worrying Is Unhealthy and Treatable

Mary is worried but she doesn't know why. She's married to a great guy and they have two wonderful kids. Her family lives in a nice house in a tony neighborhood with excellent schools. She has a good job for a well-known company. But something is wrong. She usually works overtime in the evenings and weekends to compensate for the hours a day she spends worrying. She is often curt and angry with her husband and kids over the littlest things. Her boss and her family are gradually losing patience with Mary, who can't remember the last time she got a full night's sleep.

Mary isn't a character on the latest episode of *Desperate Housewives*. She's not even a real person, but she definitely could be, according to Howard Berenbaum, a professor of psychology and director of the Stress and Anxiety Clinic, a division of the Department of Psychology's Psychological Services Center. Berenbaum says that Mary is an example of an average client his clinic treats who is suffering from Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), a mental disorder characterized by excessive and unreasonable worry. Many people who suffer from GAD don't realize they have a disorder.

"It's not like a drug addiction or an alcohol addiction," Berenbaum says. "People just think

they are neurotic or worrywarts." How do you know when it's time to seek treatment? Berenbaum says excessive worry can make one so miserable that "it's pretty obvious (when) someone needs help." About a third of the clients the clinic treats have GAD, and most who seek treatment are women (women are much more likely to seek help than men). Nationally, just under 5 percent of the population suffers from GAD. People with GAD worry much or all of the time, are physically exhausted, may have panic attacks, and don't sleep well. Berenbaum says they are hardly ever living in the moment and always looking ahead anticipating the next problem.

One way Berenbaum helps a GAD sufferer is by having the person define a set of standards the client feels he or she has to meet. "Part of what's driving people is the fear of failure, (the) fear of disappointing others, (and the) fear of

criticism," he says. Berenbaum has GAD sufferers determine if their standards are reasonable. In the example of Mary, she might think she needs to work overtime but if she checks with her boss she might discover that working extra hours is not required. Often clients come to recognize that they don't need to excel at everything and that for some things performing at a satisfactory level is okay.

"You can't pick excellent for everything," Berenbaum says. "There aren't enough hours in the day." Once realistic standards are set, Berenbaum works with clients to make sure their behavior is consistent with those standards. "The ironic thing is they accomplish more when their standards are lower but more realistic," he says.

The good news for people who experience excessive worry is that there is hope with the right treatment. "Then they see what happens (with treatment)," Berenbaum says. "They see that they can get better!"





## Around the College



### The Running of the Roaches: Cockroach Research Could Lead to Better Robots

Lurking deep within the laboratories of the University of Illinois is a cockroach almost 2 feet long and 8 inches tall.

If this sounds like a nightmare to anyone who has battled 2-inch-long cockroaches in the kitchen, the good news is that this goliath-sized monster is not a living creature. It is a robotic cockroach, a gleaming metallic insect with six legs powered by pneumatic cylinders.

Although the U of I's robotic cockroach has been idle in recent years, the research on insect walking, which underlies such robots, has not. The work continues in the laboratories of several LAS researchers in entomology, providing vital information to engineers who continue the quest for robots that can walk like insects.

With six legs, robotic insects would have a much easier time working their way through disaster sites and other rugged terrain than either wheeled robots or two-legged robots, explains LAS entomologist Fred Delcomyn. Equipped with cameras, they could also be invaluable exploratory tools in distant environments, such as Mars.

To break down the mechanics of insect walking, Delcomyn's lab features an elevated, clear plexiglass walkway for roaches, with a camera pointed up from below to take rapid-fire images—roughly 250 images per second. Researchers have used this set-up to study a half-dozen insects, but Delcomyn has focused primarily on cockroaches.

"I picked the American cockroach," he says, "because it is extremely well-adapted and specialized for high-speed locomotion."

Most animals, such as dogs or horses, have different gaits—a different sequence of foot placements that depend on the animal's speed. But insects typically maintain the same gait. It's called the alternating triangle gait because they alternate three legs at a time. They raise two legs on one side of the body simultaneously with the middle leg on the opposite side, creating a triangular base of support.

"The center of gravity is always within the center of one of the triangles," Delcomyn says. "This is one reason why insects are so elusive because they can literally turn on a dime."

Delcomyn's lab provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to perform research as they analyze how cockroaches adapt and change their walking under various situations. For example, what happens when one leg has added weight to it? Or how does the insect adapt when one of the six legs is missing?

"The problems that an animal faces in trying to control its limbs are the same that an engineer faces when developing control for the movement of a robot," he says.

In addition to aiding engineers, this kind of research offers insights to neuroscientists who are trying to determine how various animals control leg movements. Delcomyn's lab has shown that when an insect walks slowly, it pays a lot of attention to sensory feedback from the legs. But when moving fast, it "pretty much ignores sensory feedback."

Understanding how animals use sensory feedback to alter motor output patterns such as walking can help in the development of neural prostheses. These are artificial limbs that use sensory feedback to move more naturally.



### Two LAS Professors Make 'Scientific American' Top 50

*Scientific American* magazine recently named two LAS professors among its SciAM 50, which recognizes outstanding technological leadership by 50 individuals, teams, or companies in research, business, or policymaking each year.

Jeffrey Moore, the Murchison-Mallory Professor of Chemistry, and Robert Ghrist, professor of mathematics, were among those honored by the prestigious science magazine in its January 2008 issue. Moore was part of a U of I team honored for its development of self-healing material, while Ghrist was recognized for using mathematical tools to solve key problems with networks of randomly distributed sensors.

### Researchers Successfully Simulate Photosynthesis and Design a Better Leaf

More plants with less fertilizer? It's possible, according to plant biologists in LAS who have identified several proteins in plants that, if present in relatively higher concentrations, could almost double the organisms' growth efficiency. The results came from a computer model used to mimic the process of evolution. The researcher's model is the first to simulate every step of photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert light into chemical energy.

### LAS Senior Named Marshall Scholar

Ian Clausen, a senior in religious studies and English, was awarded the prestigious Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in the United Kingdom. He is the first University of Illinois student in a decade to receive the honor. A member of the Campus Honors Program and English department honors program, Clausen is also a James Scholar and Cohn Scholar in the College of LAS.

Clausen, a Wheaton, Ill., native, will begin studying in fall 2008 at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland to earn advanced degrees in theology and ethics, and heresiology and ethics. He is one of roughly 40 American college students chosen for the highly selective, all-expenses-paid scholarship.

### U of I Team Penetrates Staph Defenses

University of Illinois researchers helped lead a team that recently found a vital weak spot in the defenses of the notorious Staph bacterium.

Among the deadliest of all disease-causing organisms, *Staphylococcus aureus*—better known as "Staph"—is believed to cause more deaths in the United States than HIV/AIDS each year. But researchers showed that a compound (BPH-652) cripples the organism's production of a golden-colored carotenoid that normally acts as a type of armor, protecting the Staph bacterium against our body's immune system.

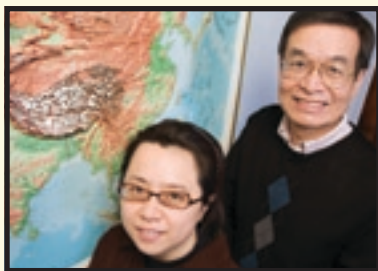
The collaborative team, led by LAS chemistry professor Eric Oldfield, has found a way to penetrate this armor. They say the same golden armor used to thwart our immune system can also be the bacterium's Achilles heel.

## Lost and Found: Geologists Locate Missing Piece of Earth Under Tibet

It wasn't exactly a job for your average lost and found department. What had gone missing was a large chunk of the Earth; and it had been missing for roughly 15 million years.

Using seismic waves, LAS geologists recently found this massive, missing piece of the Earth's lithosphere—the outer, rocky part of the planet. What's more, their discovery helps to confirm a theory that this piece of the planet had sunk into the mantle deep within the Earth millions of years ago.

Until recently, this tantalizing theory lacked any clear observation. But now, a team led by Wang-Ping Chen, University of Illinois professor of geophysics, has discovered the block of errant rock beneath Tibet.



The Tibetan Plateau and the adjacent Himalayan Mountains were created by the movements of vast tectonic plates that make up the Earth's outermost layer of rocks. About 55 million years ago, the Indian plate crashed into the Eurasian plate, forcing the land to slowly buckle and rise.

Many scientific models have projected what might have happened when this massive collision occurred. One theory said the Eurasian lithosphere became thicker as the two plates butted against each other. Then the thickened lithosphere became unstable, causing a piece to break off and sink into the deep mantle within the Earth.

To test this theory through a project called Hi-CLIMB, Chen and his doctoral student, Tai-Lin Tseng, measured the velocity of seismic waves traveling beneath the Tibet region at

depths of 300 to 700 kilometers (186 to 435 miles). Seismic waves travel faster through colder rock, such as the missing chunk of lithosphere. So, by analyzing the seismic waves, Tseng was able to locate the position of the missing rock in the midst of the hotter material that makes up the mantle.

"We not only found the missing piece of cold lithosphere, but we also were able to reconstruct the positions of tectonic plates back to 15 million years ago," Tseng says. "It therefore seems much more likely that instability in the thickening lithosphere was partially responsible for forming the Tibetan Plateau."

Averaging 16,000 feet in elevation, the Tibetan Plateau is the world's largest and highest plateau.

In addition to shedding light on an important theory, Tseng says this discovery "is fundamental" in understanding the full dynamics of collisions between tectonic plates.

## The Fostering Dilemma: Controversial Practice Benefits Some African children

Richard Akresh first witnessed the African practice known as "fostering" while he was in Togo in the mid-1990s as a Peace Corp volunteer.

With fostering, poor families will sometimes send a child to live with wealthier friends or relatives, often to work as a maid or perhaps on a cocoa plantation. Most non-governmental agencies, such as UNICEF, take the position that fostering is typically bad for children, but Akresh wanted to take a closer look at this practice to find out what really happens to these children. Were they worse off than if they had stayed with their families?

Akresh, now an LAS professor in economics, suggests that the agencies' position is based primarily on anecdotes of abuse, rather than data. So he set out to collect the data through surveys so extensive that they totaled 600 pounds of paper.

"No one would deny it—you could find the story of the child who was beaten, or the horrible situation of the child that works 18 hours a day," Akresh says. "They exist; they're not fiction. But the question was: Are they just anecdotes, or if you did some systematic survey, how do most kids end up? This was the systematic survey."

In 15 randomly selected villages within the province of Bazega in Burkina Faso, Akresh and his team surveyed 600 households in the initial phase, tracking 300 foster children and their families over 18 months.

Akresh documented that children being fostered were living with families that were better off than their birth families. The fostered children often worked as servants and were not treated as well as the new family's children; but when he compared the fostered children to their biological siblings who remained at home, he found that many fostered children were better off in such areas as schooling and health.

For example, he found that young fostered children were 17.9 percent more likely to be enrolled in school than their biological siblings back home.

"There are, no doubt, horror stories out there," says Akresh. "But one thing that needs to be taken into account is the situation the child is leaving. It might look harsh to work long hours at a cocoa plantation, but if you look at the home situation, you might find that this represents an improvement."



## Snakes on the Plains! LAS Researchers Track Snakes in Illinois, Texas, and Canada

A 6-foot-long rat snake was sliding down a tree trunk when Patrick Weatherhead first spotted it.

Weatherhead, a University of Illinois animal biology professor, was tracking snakes with a graduate student at the time. However, just as the student reached out for the rat snake, the serpent released the back end of its body from the tree. In an instant, it coiled on the side of the tree, like a spring ready to release—which is exactly what it did.

The rat snake launched itself into the air and went flying right by them at eye level. The snake was fleeing, not attacking, but it was an alarming maneuver nonetheless—just one of many memorable snake encounters since Weatherhead began doing research on them more than 25 years ago.

While the entertainment world has recently been obsessed with snakes in the most unnatural of places—*Snakes on a Plane*—Weatherhead's expertise has been a snake's natural habitat. In particular, he has zeroed in on the habitat of *rat snakes*, a non-venomous snake that sometimes imitates a rattlesnake's rattle by vibrating its tail against dry leaves.

Weatherhead says he started working with rat snakes in a backdoor way, through his bird research. In the early 1980s, he was studying how much risk birds took in defending their nests from predators. To observe how birds interacted with rat

snakes, he had transmitters designed that allowed him to track the snakes' movements.

"But snakes turned out to be such interesting subjects in their own right that I began doing snake research, taking advantage of rat snakes' distribution over a wide range of latitude to study their thermal ecology."

"Thermal ecology" refers to how temperature changes affect habitat selection and population numbers.

Weatherhead's team currently works in three different regions—southern Ontario in Canada, southern Illinois, and Texas. In Canada, he's looking at ways to preserve the dwindling rat snake populations, while in

Texas he's studying the opposite problem. In Texas, rat snakes are plentiful, but they pose a threat to two endangered bird species.

U of I researchers have found that rat snakes have an affinity for "living on the edges"—places where forests meet open areas, such as swamps or fields. This is only fitting since Weatherhead cultivated his love for wildlife as a youth by "living on the edges" himself. His home was in town, but his family always lived on the edge of natural areas—with wildlife just out the back door.

"Edges" provide the ideal habitat for snakes to control their body temperature, he explains. Because snakes are "ectotherms," they must use external sources, such as the sun's heat, to keep their body temperature at the proper level. By living on the edge, if a rat snake needs to warm its body, it moves into the open field. But if it needs to cool down, it can slither into the forest shade.

In addition to monitoring snake behavior, Weatherhead's team uses the implanted transmitters to keep track of their body temperature. Among many findings, they have discovered that colder climates slow the growth of snakes, thereby slowing their maturation and reproduction rates.

To carry out this research, Weatherhead's team goes into the field with receivers to track and map the location of as many as 25 different snakes every day. Working with rat snakes so much, Weatherhead says he has been bitten many times. But with rat snakes, that's not much of an issue.

"I'd much rather be bitten by a rat snake than a mouse, which have teeth intended for breaking through hard seeds," he says. "A rat snake bite will break the skin, but just barely."



## The Sun Has Siblings?

Our Sun may not be an only child after all.

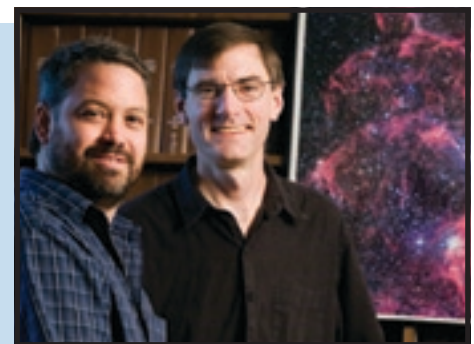
Astronomers in the College of LAS have found evidence that the Sun may have hundreds or thousands of celestial siblings, now dispersed across the heavens.

Astronomers Leslie W. Looney and Brian D. Fields, along with undergraduate student John Tobin, found this evidence while studying short-lived radioactive isotopes, which are created when massive stars end their lives in spectacular explosions called supernovas. Some of these radioactive isotopes mixed with material that formed meteorites and then fell to the Earth.

These radioisotopes left their signature in what are called "daughter species." By studying the daughter species, Looney and Fields deduced

that the supernova, which created these radioisotopes, was "stunningly close" to the early Sun.

What's more, wherever there are supernovas, you also find star clusters—hundreds to thousands of stars. Therefore, it's likely that our Sun was born in such a cluster. But because the stars were not gravitationally bound to one another, the Sun's siblings wandered away millennia ago. The siblings were lost in space.





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## Bush orders troop reduction

### Troops to return home as president said

to end the war, saying the insurgents who threaten Iraq's future are a danger to U.S. national security. American troops must stay in the battle, Bush said, and more than 130,000 will remain after the newly ordered withdrawals are completed in July.

More inside: For more information about the war in Iraq, check out the story on Page 6A

Bush said 5,700 U.S. forces would be home by Christmas, and that four brigades—at least 21,500 troops—would return by

See BUSH, Page 7A



President George W. Bush pauses in the Oval Office Thursday night after addressing the nation on his plan

# Life in the Laugh Lane

Comedy writer Larry Doyle is again in demand in Hollywood where making a living from laughs can get you down.

By Dave Evensen

It's an odd but telling moment during his induction weekend into the Illini Media Hall of Fame. Larry Doyle is in the midst of success most writers only dream of, but, when asked to pose for a magazine story, he doesn't want to smile.

That's curious because Doyle (BS '80, psychology; MS '82, journalism) writes comedy. He does it well. Doyle has slung ink for some of the funniest gigs in recent times: *The Simpsons*, *Beavis and Butt-Head*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*.

Granted, at this moment Doyle, 49, is standing in a claustrophobic subterranean passageway below the University of Illinois, but that's no big deal. As a student he spent two days in these tunnels with a friend to see if they'd be discovered (they weren't). Besides, he says, this is pleasant compared to the steam tunnels.

"When I smile I look like an 8-year-old learning how," Doyle tells the photographer. In one newspaper photo of himself, he adds, he actually looks dead.

Everyone laughs when he says it, but there's insight here. People who know him puzzle over how such a serious man writes comedy. His wife, Becky Lichtenstein, a stay-at-home mother, calls him a "big softie" and an "amazing" father (they have three children, the oldest 8 years old, in Baltimore), but a clown, he is not.

"Dour," Lichtenstein says. "That's a good word for him. Dour."

He agrees. Compared to other comedy writers in Hollywood, however, Doyle says he's one of the happier ones.

"I'd say that most comedy writers are simultaneously cynical and incredibly romantic at the same time," he says. "And so it's like they're constantly getting their heart broken by humanity. And maybe that's where the humor comes from. I don't know. But I do know that they're not what I would call happy. Some of them are kind of happy."

His wife attributes the irony partly to the fickle nature of the entertainment industry. In their 11-year-old marriage she's seen him succeed but also write multi-million-dollar failures. Doyle remains a "huge romantic," she says, but he can't relax.

"He's a worrier. His parents were (Irish) immigrants. So he has that. Never feeling like you can rest easy," she says. "Even when he's got three things going and they're all good, he won't let himself rest easy because he's worried about them falling apart. With the way some things have turned out, I guess he's justified."

The laugh business is harsh. A newspaper detailed Doyle's recent visit to a San Francisco bookstore to sign copies of his new comedy novel, *I Love You, Beth Cooper*. Sales are strong, but on that day only one person arrived for the event. ("The traffic," Doyle joked, according to the *Baltimore Sun*. "It must have been the traffic.")

Nevertheless, Doyle asked if the woman still wanted him to read from his novel. She said yes. He obliged and read aloud for 15 minutes before she left without buying the book.

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Raised near Chicago, Doyle was a news reporter for six years after college before comedy started paying the bills. He and Neal Sternecky—they co-created a comic strip in college—were hired by the *Los Angeles Times* Syndicate in 1989 to revive the late Walt Kelly's comic strip, *Pogo*.

The revival caused a stir, and they were invited to *The Today Show*, but, as Doyle recounted on one Internet blog site, *Pogo* fared poorly (he blamed the writing) and the effort was dropped.

About that time, however, after several rejections, *The New Yorker* finally gave Doyle reason to smile. In 1990, the magazine published his piece, "Life without Leann," about a man who enlists a support group to win back his ex-girlfriend, Leann, more than 500 days after she dumped him. The piece endures, and was recently featured on National Public Radio's *This American Life*. Doyle still writes for the magazine.

He went on to work for *National Lampoon*, *Spy Magazine*, and the TV show *Beavis and Butt-Head* before he joined *New York Magazine* in 1994. Events turned again in 1997, however, when Doyle learned on his honeymoon that his boss was fired. Doyle quit upon his return.

## “Every day at *The Simpsons* is one laugh after another.”

Ultimately, the subsequent plunge into unemployment led to a more lucrative career—Hollywood. Doyle was in California freelancing a fake profile of *Beavis and Butt-Head* characters for *Rolling Stone* when he heard that *The Simpsons*, a Fox television show Doyle had watched for almost a decade, wanted new blood.

When he started there in 1997, Doyle earned twice as much as he ever had but he was also terrified, surrounded by a dozen other brilliant writers from former prosecutors to people holding doctoral degrees. He pitched jokes out of turn and interrupted senior writers. Finally, his agent warned Doyle that he should listen more. He did, and his original 13-week contract was extended.

Doyle wrote on a *Slate* magazine diary, posted online soon after his extension, that he bought a house in Hollywood Hills after he made the cut and then told the guys at work.

“Congratulations,” one of them joked. “You’re fired.”

“Every day at *The Simpsons*,” Doyle wrote, “is one laugh after another.”

In time, however, Doyle’s plans changed. He was a hot commodity in Hollywood, with a wildly successful TV show on his résumé, a deal to write a new TV show pilot, and also having landed movie stars Ben Stiller and Drew Barrymore for his movie screenplay, *Duplex*. Sensing opportunity—and trying to remain fresh—Doyle left *The Simpsons* after four seasons to chart a new path.

It was a promising move. Around the time Doyle started *The Simpsons*, Greg Daniels, a former writer for the show, and Mike Judge, creator of MTV’s *Beavis and Butt-Head*, co-created Fox’s successful TV show *King of the Hill*. By 1998 *Forbes* magazine estimated each of their worths at more than \$50 million.

Unfortunately, Hollywood fortunes also fall. *Duplex* and *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*, another movie Doyle wrote and co-produced, were “gigantic bombs” after their fall 2003 release, he says, and lost tens of millions of dollars worldwide. His pilot wasn’t picked up, and a series of *Looney Tunes* short films he produced weren’t released.

In addition to being associated with failures—in Hollywood, Doyle says, you are your latest work—he also found himself rebuilding his reputation after reacting angrily to how his scripts were altered. He quit *Looney Tunes*, and he was regarded as a trouble-maker.

“You’re supposed to quietly undermine your enemies” in the movie industry, he quips, instead of saying what you think. He adds, however, that he did then have an overly “privileged” view of his role in the movies.

Then 45, Doyle also felt the pressures of age. Screenwriter Burt Prelutsky wrote in a column for *Writer’s Guild America* that jobs disappeared when he turned 50. Agents suggested makeovers and cutting shows such as *M\*A\*S\*H* from his résumé. He eventually earned a staff position—at age 59 becoming then the oldest TV staff writer—but not before building debt and considering suicide.

Doyle kept writing, but his career cooled. At his wife’s urging they moved to Baltimore, her hometown, into her parents’ former house. Free of Hollywood demands—pitch meeting after fruitless pitch meeting, as his wife describes it—Doyle concentrated on writing. The result was *I Love You, Beth Cooper*.

The 249-page, coming-of-age novel about high school seniors was originally conceived as a screenplay, but his movie agent didn’t think it would sell. Another agent, however, encouraged him to try something different: Write a book. He wrote a 100-page outline and sent it to several publishers that bid on it, including HarperCollins, which promised to release it in spring 2007 if he finished in time. Doyle made the deadline, finishing in four months.

The book was well-received. Barnes & Noble kept it on front shelves for four months, and it has received generally good reviews, particularly on blogs. More importantly, at least in Hollywood, it received an “A” rating in *Entertainment Weekly* and was featured on national morning television. A movie house purchased the book, and the film is tentatively scheduled for release this spring.

That means Doyle is no longer the guy who wrote *Duplex*, but the guy who wrote a good book. He just completed a TV pilot deal with Jerry Bruckheimer’s company, which is producing the pilot for Warner Brothers TV, for the Fox network.

The prospect of his book becoming a movie promises financial security for at least a couple of years, along with hope that this time the movie will be different, more like him.

“(Being the book author) gives me a little bit more sort of moral authority” in making the movie, Doyle says. “They’re more likely to defer to me on things just because I wrote the book.”

He’s asked if he’s happy. Doyle pauses, then says something that his wife, hearing it later, couldn’t believe.

He’s satisfied. There’s still reason to worry, Doyle adds. Deals fall through. He’s not ebullient. Not glowing. Not even smiling. But he’s content.



Larry Doyle got his start at *The Daily Illini* in the late 1970s, but has since written for *Spy Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Simpsons* TV show. He now has a movie deal and a TV pilot in the works.

## Class Notes

### 1950

**Vivian Velichkoff Doering** (AB '53, teaching of English) is heavily involved in community service in her hometown of Escondido, Calif., where she participates in, and often leads, 29 different groups. Some of Doering's duties include: legislative chair of the California Federation of Women's Clubs and donating legal services at Joslyn Senior Center. Doering has six children, has written seven novels, and graduated from the University of San Diego law school at the age of 55.

### 1960

**Norman Pace** (PhD '67, microbiology) and **Mitchell Sogin** (BS '67, chemistry; PhD '72, microbiology) received American Society for Microbiology scientific achievement awards. Pace, a professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, received the Abbot-ASM Lifetime Achievement Award. Sogin, a professor at Brown University and director of a marine biology laboratory, received the USFCC/J. Roger Porter Award.

**Nancy Strow Sheley** (AM '69, English) was selected for a Fulbright Scholar Award to teach American studies for six months on the divided island of Cyprus beginning January 2008. Sheley, an assistant professor of English and liberal studies at California State University, Long Beach, is a past recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Travel Abroad Award that sent her to Rwanda.

**Ronald E. Tarrson** (BS '66, psychology) was elected as an officer of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. Tarrson was president and CEO for John O. Butler Company, a leading designer and provider of oral health-care products. Today he is managing partner and director of Santa Fe Aero Services, a supplier of avionics and maintenance, at the Santa Fe, N. Mex., airport.

# STANDARD-BEARERS OF EXCELLENCE

## WINNERS OF THE LAS 2007 ALUMNI AWARDS

LAS Alumni Award winners represent the best in the liberal arts and sciences tradition—talented, hardworking, and dedicated to making some difference in the world. Meet this year's winners.

### LAS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Rachel Galun** (PhD '55, entomology), described as a “fearless woman,” has been to Africa more than 60 times, fighting tropical illnesses caused by mosquitoes, ticks, and tsetse flies. She is a world-renowned expert on blood-feeding insects and helped establish the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi, Kenya.

At the height of the AIDS epidemic, **David Matthews** (PhD '71, chemistry) became the scientific founder of Agouron Pharmaceuticals—a company that would go on to develop one of the most effective drugs to battle the HIV virus. His technique for drug development became a model for many pharmaceutical companies.

### LAS RECENT GRADUATE AWARD

It didn't take long for **Margaret Kosal** (PhD '01, chemistry) to emerge as one of the nation's leading young experts on chemical and biological defense. She has even spoken to the chiefs of the New York City Fire Department on terrorism and has become an authority on how emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, might be used for both terrorism and counterterrorism.

### LAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Honorable. Gracious. Dependable. Curious. Fun. **Dorothy DiIorio** (AB '49, general curriculum) lives up to all of the descriptions of her character. As a former LAS Alumni Board member, a tireless advocate for the college, and a generous contributor, her service to LAS and the Urbana campus has been incalculable.

Read more: [www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/awards/winners.html](http://www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/awards/winners.html)

## Alumni News

**Shelly Waxman** (AB '63, political science) has completed *The Josephus Enigma*, the third book in his co-authored mystery series *The Sam Cohen Case Adventures*.

### 1970

**Raymond Bial** (AB '70, political science) has published two new books, *Shadow Island: A Tale of Lake Superior* (published by Blue Horse Books) and *Nauvoo: Mormon City on the Mississippi River* (published by Houghton Mifflin).

**Parley Ann Boswell** (AB '75, AM '77, history), a professor of English at EIU, Charleston, has published *Edith Wharton on Film*, a study of Wharton's cinema-age fiction and film adaptations of her work.

**David C. Colby** (PhD '75, political science) was appointed vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a philanthropic organization that is devoted to improving the health and healthcare of Americans through researching, and developing solutions for, problems in healthcare policy.

**Lisa D. Duran** (AB '75, political science; AM '79, teaching of English as a second language) was named as one of the top 5 percent of attorneys in Arizona and New Mexico practicing immigration law by *Southwest Super Lawyers* magazine.

**Carlton D. Fisher** (AB '75, political science), a partner in the Chicago office of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

**William W. Greaves** (BS '71, honors biology) was appointed to serve on a statewide Wisconsin taskforce to study the handling of soil contamination from the historic use of lead arsenate pesticides. Greaves is the director of the division of public health and an associate profes-



Dance performances and the crowning of a May Queen were highlights of the May Fete, which took place around Mother's Day during the early 20th century. The celebration, organized by the Women's Athletic Association, served as a physical education exhibit for women, and took place in the peach orchard that was next to Lincoln Hall.

sor of population health at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

**Robert L. Heath** (PhD '71, speech) recently entered half-time retirement at the University of Houston where he taught for 35 years. Heath has published 13 books and has four in various stages of completion.

**William H. Isbell** (PhD '73, anthropology) has been promoted to distinguished professor by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. Isbell, a Binghamton University archaeologist, most recently has been working on a five-year excavation at Conchopata, a Peruvian city being destroyed as a modern city expands over it.

**Ron Knecht** (AB '71, mathematics) was elected in November 2006 to a six-year term on the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. Knecht is an economist and mechanical engineer in Carson City, where he resides with his wife, Kathy; daughter, Karyn; and mother-in-law, Christena Jensen.

**Leon M. Olszewski** (BS '79, chemical engineering) married Clarissa Payne in February 2006, and they have a son, Aragorn Michael, born October 2006.

**Roxane Orgill** (AB '75, independent plan of study) has published her fifth book, *Footwork: The Story of Fred and Adele Astaire*, a picture book biography of the development of Fred Astaire and his sister Adele.

**James P. Sikora** (AM '70, PhD '72, sociology), professor of sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University, received the 2007 Pantagraph Award for Teaching Excellence and presented the principal speech at the university's Honors Day Convocation.

**Robert S. Stephens** (BS '78, psychology) has been named chair of the psychology department at Virginia Tech's College of Science. He is also a professor there, a licensed clinical psychologist, and has authored more than 100 research papers, journal articles, and other scholarly works on substance abuse and dependence.



## Alumni News

**Jack Warkenthien** (AB '78, finance) is an AM talk show host on the BizRadio Network. He hosts a daily show, "Where Wall Street Meets Main Street," in Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth.

**Steve Wittrig** (BS '77, chemical engineering) has been awarded the Clare Hall President's Award for his work in the creation and development of a 10-year, \$10 million research program, "Clean Energy: Facing the Future." Wittrig worked with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Tsinghua University to develop and deploy new clean energy technologies for China and the rest of the world.

### 1980

**Stephen Gliva** (AB '89, economics) was married on April 29, 2006, to Krista Marie Simons. On February 26, 2007, their daughter, Lily Marie, was born at Evanston Northwestern hospital.

**Matt G. Golosinski** (AB '89, English) was named editorial director for the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He oversees much of the school's marketing and communications efforts, online and offline.

**Alan Mead** (AB '88, AM '92, PhD '00, psychology) was recently appointed as an assistant professor of psychology at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Institute of Psychology.

**Dan Owczarski** (AB '89, economics), applying his 12 years of healthcare experience and research in the medical device sector, has joined Avondale Partners LLC, a full-service institutional investment bank, as a senior manager.

**Latasha (Johnson) Thomas** (AB '87, political science) was reelected to her second full term to the Chicago City Council in February, receiving more than 66 percent of the vote against two challengers. Appointed by Mayor Richard Daley in 2000, Thomas, an attorney, has won three

elections. She and her husband, Tim (CBA '85), are parents of Victoria (17) and Tim III (14).

### 1990

**Jean Crotty** (AB '90, speech communication) married Mark Longo, founder of [www.theOptionsInsider.com](http://www.theOptionsInsider.com), in December 2006.

**Kevin Driscoll** (AB '92, history) was elected as a partner at the Chicago office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Driscoll, a member of the firm's Finance, Insolvency and Restructuring Department, generally represents creditors in bankruptcy proceedings and financial institutions in commercial litigation matters.

**Alison G. Fox** (BS '92, psychology) was elected partner at Baker & Daniels, LLP. Fox received her JD from Northwestern University School of Law in 1995 and has been practicing in labor and employment law for the firm since 1999.

**Elina Furman** (AB '96, English) just released a book, dealing with the subject of female commitment anxiety, entitled *Kiss and Run: The Single, Picky, and Indecisive Girl's Guide to Overcoming Her Fear of Commitment* (Simon and Schuster). Furman and her book have been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, and *The Today Show*.

**Amy K. Klockenga** (AB '94, political science) has been selected to be the judicial law clerk to the Honorable James T. Moody, United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

**Yelena Matusevich** (PhD '98, French), an associate professor of French at University of Alaska-Fairbanks, received the 2007 Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching award for her work in expanding UAF's French program.

**Phillip Sarnecki** (AB '92, political science) was recently named one of greater Cincinnati's top 40 leaders under the age of 40 by the *Cincinnati Business Courier*. Sarnecki is the youngest managing partner for Northwestern Mutual and the CEO of RPS Financial Group, Inc. Phillip lives with his wife, Heidi, and daughter, Emily Claire, in Mason, Ohio.

**Stephen Vertucci** (AB '98, history) joined the Harris Law Firm, P.C., as an associate attorney.

**Nathan Hale Williams** (AB '97, speech communication) was honored by the Human Rights Campaign for his contributions to the African American GLBT movement. Williams has acted in and produced a number of movies and television shows, which work to raise GLBT awareness. Williams is also an entertainment lawyer and event planner.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS LAS ALUMNI AWARDS



**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: MAY 2, 2008**

Nominations are being sought for the College of Liberal Arts and Science's annual alumni awards. Help honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through their professional achievement, service to humanity, or leadership in the college.

For more information and to submit a nomination online, see: [www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/awards) or call LAS Alumni Relations: (217) 333-3387.

## Obituaries

**Anne Martha Baer** (Attendee '31, general curriculum) passed away on September 13, 1999.

**Richard W. Burg** (PhD '58, chemistry) passed away on February 4, 2007. Following a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California-Berkely, Burg became a research microbiologist at Merck & Co. During his 33 years at Merck, he helped to develop numerous drugs, including Avermectin, which proved to be not only a major veterinary product but also the cure for river blindness, a disease afflicting millions of people in parts of Africa and Central America. His wife, Helene; son, Stephen; daughter, Suzanne; and granddaughter, Emma, survive him.

**Florence Adams Dooley** (AB '36, general curriculum) passed away on November 12, 2006. While attending the U of I, she sang the leading role in a University production of *Carmen*. She was an admissions counselor for Coe College, and then for DePauw University. Her three children William, Raymond, and Virginia, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren survive her.

**William Howard Gustafson** (AM '67, PhD '70, mathematics) passed away on July 16, 2007. Gustafson was a professor of mathematics at Texas Tech University from 1976 to 2003, and was known for his expertise in ring theory and algebra. In 1977, he received the Lester R. Ford Award for an article he co-authored entitled "American Mathematics from 1940 to the Day Before Yesterday." Gustafson is survived by his sisters, Judith and Nancy, and niece, Torie.

**Kathryn Hectkotter Fox** (AB '58, teaching of English) passed away on November 22, 2006, in Aurora, Ill., at the age of 70. Kathryn was a seventh grade social studies teacher for 38 years, a proud wife and mother, and devout alumni. She is survived by her daughter and husband.

**David I. Herbst** (AB '61, general curriculum) passed away on February 3, 2008. For more than 40 years, Herbst practiced commercial litigation at the local and national level in Chicago. Herbst is survived by his wife, Karen, and his children and grandchildren.

**William Oesterling** (AB '43, MS '49, geology) passed away on December 10, 2006. Between his two degrees, Oesterling served in the Army as a Medium Tank Platoon Leader fighting under General Patton. In 1958, he worked surveying for the Southern Pacific Land Company and became chief geologist by 1961. Oesterling enjoyed traveling (including six trips to Africa), running (completing his first marathon at 54), and riding his bicycle. His wife, Arlys; son, Wynn; sister, Jane; and nieces and nephews survive him.

**John William Rothrock** (PhD '49, chemistry) passed away on October 7, 2006. He was the first in his family to attend college and served as an aerial navigator in the U.S. Army Air Force. Rothrock was a research chemist at Merck & Co. for 37 years, helping to develop some of the firm's most important drugs, including Mevacor and Vasotec. His wife, Liz; daughters, Janet and Susan; two brothers; and four grandchildren survive him.

**Betty Pollard Sewell** (AB '47, science and letters) passed away on December 25, 2006, in Arroyo Grande, Calif. Her two daughters survive her.

**William J. Wechter** (AB '53, general curriculum, MS '54, chemistry), a 2006 LAS Alumni Achievement Award winner, passed away on July 8, 2007. Wechter spent 27 years with Upjohn Pharmaceuticals, now known as Pfizer, where he was instrumental in the discovery or commercialization of seven drugs. Among them was Motrin, one of the most popular pain relievers of all time. Wechter, who has nearly 50 patents to his name, also spent 14 years as a research professor of medicine at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. From there, he and a close-knit group of scientists spun off Encore Pharmaceuticals—a dynamic new company that discovers new applications for "old" drugs. Encore has done significant work on R-Flurbipro-

fen, a leading candidate among a new wave of drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's. Tragically, Wechter died from the very disease that this drug battled.

**Charles William Walton** (BS '30, chemistry) passed away on December 30, 2006. Walton helped develop synthetic rubber for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and worked as head of the 3M Company's New Products Division where he was eventually named to the Board of Directors. Walton enjoyed being an active member of his church, hunting, and flyfishing. His wife, Genevieve; his children, Barbara, Alan, and Douglas; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren survive him.

**Janette D. Harshfield Wilson** (AB '74, teaching of Spanish) passed away on January 5, 2008, in Crystal Lake, Ill. She is survived by her husband, Robert A. Wilson.

### Professor and Alumnus David F. Linowes

(BS '41, accountancy) passed away on October 29, 2007. The renowned "father of socioeconomic accounting" and pioneer in the study of workplace privacy advised four U.S. presidents. He worked to blend accounting principles with public policy and also encouraged government and corporations to improve democratic society.

At the University of Illinois he was the Boeschstein Professor of Political Economy and Public Policy, a named chair within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 1987 he was named Boeschstein Professor Emeritus, but he continued teaching, writing, and researching on campus until June 2000. He also was a professor of business administration at U of I and senior advisor for the University's Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

Linowes began his career in accounting, founding his own firm. Later he was appointed chairman of four presidential commissions and also served as chairman, CEO, or board member for several companies. In 1982 he received the United States Public Service Award for service to the government.

His wife, Dorothy, three children, 13 grandchildren, and two brothers survive him.

## Alumni News

### 2000

**Daniel Bellefleur** (AB '02, finance) is aiding in community development in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer.

**Shaun Carlson** (BS '00, computer science and statistics) and **Jennifer Carlson** (AB '01, speech communication) announced the birth of their daughter, Arabella, on November 13, 2006.

**Nicholas Ftikas** (AB '03, political science), a May 2007 graduate of the John Marshall Law School, was recently awarded a \$25,000 Lucy Sprague Public Service Scholarship. Ftikas hopes to use his law degree to help reform housing development throughout Chicago.

**Matthew D. Guymon** (AB '02, political science) was selected to be an associate attorney for Husch & Eppenberger, LLC, in the firm's

Land Use Development and Financing Practice Group. Guymon worked as an intern for U.S. House Representative Jerry F. Costello and as a judicial clerk for U.S. magistrate Judge David D. Noce, before graduating from Saint Louis University School of Law in 2005.

**Jennifer Herzog** (AB '02, speech communication) completed her clerkship with the Honorable James E. Shapiro, U.S. bankruptcy judge, and will be joining the Bankruptcy & Restructuring group at the Wisconsin-based law firm of Godfrey & Kahn.

**Kory A. Kruse** (AB '03, German) was hired as a marketing analyst for the German company Liebherr, Colmar, France.

**Holly Nye** (PhD '04, cell and structural biology) was honored by the Casper College Alumni Association at its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni and Friends

Banquet. Nye taught various chemistry classes at Casper College, and then served as a surface warfare officer and lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. She was later appointed as a postdoctoral research associate at U of I. Nye also served as a Fulbright lecturer at Omdurman Islamic University and Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

**Bethany Snyder-Morse** (AB '03, Spanish) welcomed a daughter, Julia Marie Morse, into her family on November 1, 2007. Julia joined her brother, James, 15 months old, at home in Reston, Va.

**Karl R. Tetzlaff** (AB '02, political science), a May 2007 graduate of the John Marshall Law School, was recently awarded a \$25,000 Lucy Sprague Public Service Scholarship. Tetzlaff plans to help establish a drug treatment program in Boulder, Colo.

## SEND YOUR CLASS NOTE

Recently married or promoted? Fulfilled a lifelong dream? Tell us what is new in your life. Send your news to Editor, LAS News, 112 English Bldg., 608 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801 or email: [laseditor@uiuc.edu](mailto:laseditor@uiuc.edu). Priority is given to Alumni Association members.

### YOUR NEWS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni Association Member  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Major \_\_\_\_\_



# BOLD, BRASH, BAROQUE

CHICAGO OPERA THEATER'S REINTERPRETATION OF HANDEL'S *ORLANDO*

Reserve your space now for a fresh, new production by the Chicago Opera Theater of *Orlando* by George Frideric Handel. The company brings a contemporary edginess to this classic psychological thriller about a great soldier's emotional unraveling when confronted by his true love's commitment to another man.

Your evening will also include a private dinner at the Fairmont Chicago's acclaimed Aria restaurant and the opportunity to meet U of I professor Julie Jordan Gunn, a talented song arranger, orchestrator, and accompanist.

**Harris Theater for Music & Dance  
at Millennium Park**  
(includes dinner at Aria)  
**Chicago, IL**

**Tuesday, June 3, 2008  
5:00 p.m.**

**Alumni Association Members: \$55  
Nonmembers/guests: \$60**

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, May 23, 2008  
Tickets are limited; first-come, first-served.

Register online at [www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/events](http://www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/events) or call toll-free (888) 333-9644 or (217) 333-3387.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Total payment due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**  Check payable to the U of I LAS Alumni Association  Credit card charge:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** LAS Alumni Association; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 112 English Building; 608 S. Wright St.; Urbana, IL 61801

*This event is partially funded by a gift from the late Katherine Wolcott Walker, former LAS Alumni Association Board President and 1997 Distinguished Service Award honoree.*

## CARDINALS VS CUBS BASEBALL

**Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO  
Sunday, July 6, 2008  
12:15 p.m.**

Watch these rivals play ball from the Redbird Row party rooms overlooking right field! U of I physics professor Alan Nathan will "warm up the bullpen" with his popular lecture "Baseball: It's Not Nuclear Physics (or Is It?!)." Then dig into a ballpark-style buffet luncheon. Soda, beer, and snacks will be served.

**Tickets are limited. Reserve your space now!**  
**TICKETS: \$85**  
**Registration Deadline: Friday, June 27, 2008**

Register online at  
[www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/events](http://www.las.uiuc.edu/alumni/events) or  
call toll-free (888) 333-9644 or (217) 333-3387.

*This event is partially funded by a gift from the late Hazel Belle Baker, an LAS alumna.*



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