

# LASN<sup>News</sup> SUMMER 2013

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**And Now For Something Completely Different**  
*Ninth Letter Celebrates Its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



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Coming of Age    Courage under Fire  
Silicon Valley Pioneer    And More!



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We are pleased to present the Summer 2013 issue of *LAS News*. This issue celebrates the 10th anniversary of the *Ninth Letter*, showcases groundbreaking research from LAS faculty, and gives insight into what some of our talented alumni have been up to since their days at Illinois. I am immersed in this environment every day but there is something powerful about seeing these stories of innovation, talent, and generosity compiled into a single issue. It is truly amazing!

As some of you may have heard, I will be leaving the University of Illinois later this summer. In April I announced I had accepted the position of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, effective August 1.

This has been one of the most difficult decisions that I have made in my professional career, in large part because of the tremendous privilege it has been to work with remarkable colleagues, students, and friends of the University of Illinois.

I assure you that Illinois campus leaders will ensure a smooth leadership transition for College of LAS. There are path-breaking scholarly discoveries and innovations in educational programs on the horizon for the liberal arts and sciences, activities vital to the society we serve. Though I will not be physically on the Urbana campus, please know I will always be here in spirit, supporting the college in all of its endeavors and striving with all of you to advance the mission of the liberal arts and sciences in the 21st century.

Ruth Watkins, Harry E. Preble Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Editor's Note: Brian Ross, a longtime LAS faculty member and associate dean, has been selected to serve as interim dean of LAS. Ross will begin his new role in July. For more information visit: [www.las.illinois.edu/news/2013/interimdean](http://www.las.illinois.edu/news/2013/interimdean).*

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# THE MANY PRESIDENTS OF GEOLOGY

## SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI HAIL FROM THE SAME ERA AT THE U OF I

By Dave Evensen

Maybe there was something in the groundwater at the U of I back in the late 1960s and 1970s to help explain this story. This is about geology, after all.

What's known is this: This year, three alumni from the Department of Geology whose time on campus overlapped some 40-plus years ago have become president or president-elect of three separate, major earth science organizations with tens of thousands of members, all at the same time.

Namely, the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), American Geophysical Union (AGU), and Geological Society of America (GSA), are headed or will soon be led by Sharon Mosher (BS '73, PhD '78, geology), Margaret Leinen (BS '69, geology), and Suzanne Mahlburg Kay (BS '69, MS '72, geology), respectively.

In short, the AGI is active in government affairs, earth science education, public policy, and workforce issues, while the GSA and the AGU advance the geosciences through major conferences and influential journals. The GSA is the principal organization for geologists in North America, and the AGU represents geophysicists, atmospheric scientists, oceanographers, and space scientists (see box).

"In terms of leadership in the geoscience community these are three of the most important leadership positions that there are in the country," says Stephen Marshak, U of I professor of geology and director of the School of Earth, Society, and Environment.

All of the women knew each other from their college days; in fact, Mosher and Mahlburg Kay were later roommates during graduate studies at Brown University. But their careers have run independent of each other, and in different subfields of geology. They weren't the only widely successful geology alumni whose roots originate during the same era at the U of I, either.

"I'm trying to figure out why, because it is odd," says Mosher, dean of the Jackson School

of Geosciences at the University of Texas-Austin, when asked if she could explain how it is that they have all emerged as presidents at the same time. "I don't think this happens very often."

"If you talk to the department, they still talk about that era," says Mahlburg Kay, the William and Katherine Snee Professor of Geological Sciences at Cornell University, of the time they were at the U of I. "It's amazing how many successful people came out of [the Department of Geology] in that five-year period."

Adds Leinen, associate provost and executive director of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, with a laugh: "Was it something in the water?"

The real reasons are many, starting of course with the alumni themselves. Tom Johnson, head of the Department of Geology, says the three all studied different aspects of geology while at the U of I. They've all earned respect in their fields—each earning the departmental alumni achievement award, with Leinen also winning the LAS Alumni Achievement Award in 2010—and they studied when it was uncommon to see a woman in the sciences.

"Nowadays we're pretty close to gender parity in geoscience," Johnson says. "However, at that time it was much more male dominated. It adds to their achievement."

While the women acknowledge that fact, however, none of them recall facing any sort of discrimination based on their gender. They went on field study trips with their classmates, and today they have good things to say about their former professors, with names such as Dan Blake, Fred Donath, Thomas Anderson, Don Henderson, Dennis Wood, and David Anderson, among others.

"Illinois was and still is a very major player in geoscience," Leinen says. "The faculty were leaders in their fields, and it's only natural that students who came out of that environment would come to understand how important leadership is."

Mahlburg Kay recalls it being a time of dramatic change, too. Protests over the Vietnam War were erupting on campus, and women were gaining rights. For example, when she and Leinen arrived on campus, women were still required to be in their room by 10:30 p.m. on weeknights. By the time they earned their bachelor's degrees, that requirement had been lifted.

It wasn't only the professors who pushed them to succeed, she adds. The students pushed themselves.

"It was so exciting," she recalls. "It isn't just the three of us out of those years [who were] successful. There [were] a lot of very successful

people who came out of that time, and the synergy was just amazing."

Ten out of the 14 in her graduating class, she adds, went on to earn their doctoral degree in geology. Another classmate from that era, John Winter, wrote a popular textbook, and another, Jack Sharp, is a former president of the GSA.

Mosher, who works with two U of I graduates on faculty at the University of Texas-Austin, says the U of I geology alumni she knows feel very strongly about improving geoscience education in colleges and high schools, and also the importance of advocating for geosciences in public policy. It's no surprise to her that they emerged from the same program at U of I.

"I just got a really good education," she says. "It was a great education in geosciences that really prepared me for a good geoscience career." ■



Sharon Mosher



Suzanne Mahlburg Kay



Margaret Leinen

### THE BIG THREE

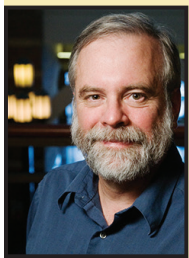
Illinois alumni are president or president-elect of three of the most important earth science organizations in the country. The organizations are:

**American Geosciences Institute:** An umbrella organization of some 50 geoscience societies representing 250,000 members, playing an active role in government affairs, earth science education, public policy, and workforce issues.

**Geological Society of America:** Established in 1888, this is the principal organization of geologists in North America, with some 20,000 members around the world. Organizes major conferences and publishes high-profile journals advancing science.

**American Geophysical Union:** With some 61,000 members around the world, this organization represents a broad spectrum of geophysicists, atmospheric scientists, oceanographers, and space scientists. It runs the largest geoscience conference in the world and publishes many key journals.

### Sweat, Sports, and the Mind



Maybe life just isn't fair, after all. Not only can elite athletes jump higher and move faster than most of us, but a new study suggests that in some ways they can think faster, too.

A study of 87 top-ranked Brazilian volleyball players (some of them medalists in the Beijing and London Olympics) and 67 of their non-athletic contemporaries found that athletes excel in how quickly their brains absorb and respond to new information. Being an athlete also minimized cognitive differences that normally appear between men and women.

For example, female athletes were similar to their male peers in the speed of certain mental calculations and reaction times, while nonathletic females performed the same tasks more slowly than their male counterparts.

"I think we have learned that athletes are different from us in some ways," says psychology professor Arthur Kramer, director of Beckman Institute, who led the study with graduate student Heloisa Alves.

Overall, the athletes were faster at memory tests and tasks that required them to switch between tasks. They were quicker to notice things in their peripheral vision and to detect subtle changes in a scene. And in general, they were better able to accomplish tasks while ignoring confusing or irrelevant information.

The ability to inhibit a response is one marker of what brain researchers call "executive function," the capacity to control, plan, and regulate one's behavior, Kramer says. While it has obvious advantages in sports, the ability to quickly inhibit an action also is useful in daily life, he says.

"One way to think about it is you're in your car and you're ready to start off at a light and you catch in your side vision a car or a bicyclist that you didn't see a second ago," he says. Being able to stop after having decided to go can be a lifesaver in that situation.

While the study adds to evidence that those who spend years on physical activities also enhance their cognitive abilities, there remains much to be learned, Kramer says.

### Rethinking an Ancient Artifact

For almost a century archaeologists have believed that a treasure-trove of 2,000-year-old Native American pipes unearthed in southern Ohio came from local stone.

A new study at the University of Illinois, however, concludes that most stone for the pipes—and perhaps even the finished pipes themselves—came from Illinois.

The researchers spent nearly a decade studying the pipes. They found that less than 20 percent of the 111 Tremper Mound pipes they tested were made from local Ohio stone. About 65 percent were carved from flint clay found only in northern Illinois.

Supported by the National Science Foundation, it was the first study to actually test the stone pipes from quarries across the upper Midwest.

Researchers are still puzzling over how the materials made it to Ohio from Illinois, and why very similarly styled pipes from a site 40 miles north of Tremper Mound were carved almost entirely from local stone (the communities that produced the pipes existed about the same time).

These results are reminders that things are not as simple as they sometimes appear, says Thomas Emerson, principal investigator on the study and director of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, as well as an adjunct professor in anthropology.



### Growth in a Booming Field



The demand for language translators and interpreters is projected to expand for at least the next decade. That means the U of I's Center for Translation Studies is going to grow, too.

The center is accepting applications for a new master's program set to launch in the fall. It's a busy yet affirming time for the center, which became the first of its kind at a major research university when it opened in 2007.

The master's program will include both on-campus and online options, meaning that students can choose to complete the degree on campus or via the Internet. Aside from how courses are scheduled, the two options have the same timelines and requirements. The Center, one of the largest in the country, offers translation studies in 37 languages.

Several projections predict that the field of translation and interpreting (translation regards the conversion of text; interpreting is oral) will continue to grow as communications around the world increase. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects career opportunities for translators and interpreters to grow by roughly 20 percent between 2012 and 2020.

### A 21st-Century Step in Learning

Learning occurs when you are introduced to a new fact or discovery. But you also learn when a familiar topic is presented to you from a new angle, which is the idea behind a new, non-traditional course initiative in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that brings together typically separate disciplines.

It's called the "blockbuster" course initiative, and when it kicked off this spring, students in the program considered, among other things, the automobile's impact on the nature of labor and the future of sustainable development in the Midwest. The idea is to inspire students to consider a diversity of views as they solve important issues in society.

Diane Musumeci, acting associate dean for humanities and interdisciplinary programs, says the idea originated from a team of LAS faculty examining how to strengthen undergraduate education.

"Diversity of opinions and perspectives is essential to the essential functioning of a democratic society," faculty wrote in their report that inspired the idea for the initiative.





## Answers for Ants

For most of us, ant control might be accomplished with the bottom of a shoe or maybe a few traps. Tasked with helping prevent infestations across an entire 2,000-mile national border, however, researchers at the U of I turned to the Internet.

They created Antkey, an interactive website that the U.S. Department of Agriculture can use to better inspect incoming traffic from Mexico for pests. The website ([antkey.org](http://antkey.org)) includes more than

1,150 images and 70 video clips to identify invasive ant species.

The problem is big enough to give an entire economy ants in its pants. Roughly \$1 billion in cross-border commerce takes place every day between the United States and Mexico. And as goods flow into the U.S., pests can hitch a ride, setting up house and threatening agriculture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture inspects cross-border commerce for pests. If an ant infestation is detected, the current protocol calls for sending a sample to the U.S. Entomological Collection in Washington, D.C., where curators decide if the ants pose a threat.

The process takes time and costs money, however. That's why Andy Suarez, a University of Illinois professor of entomology and of animal biology, developed Antkey with postdoctoral researcher Eli Sarnat. Their goal was to help non-specialists in quarantine and border facilities around the United States make the process of ant identification faster, more efficient, and more user friendly.



## The Evolving Shape of Math

When you enter the Illinois Geometry Lab, situated in the lower level of Altgeld Hall, take any assumptions you have about mathematics and leave them at the door.

This is where research teams of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members meet to discuss the latest in mathematics. Just as there are breakthroughs in science and

engineering, our understanding of math as a fundamental tool is evolving, too.

That's a guiding principle behind the lab, now in its fourth semester. Situated in a conference-sized room with a 3-D printer and computers lining the walls, the lab is intended to drive home the point that mathematics is "alive" and constantly changing, says Jayadev Athreya, director and co-founder of the lab.

"The purpose of the lab is to really get them into this idea that they're going to be exploring and figuring out genuine new things, and that that's just going to be absolutely an enormous amount of fun," he says.

"We help translate problems even in many areas of mathematics where you wouldn't expect visuals, or geometry, to play a role," Athreya, assistant professor of mathematics, adds.

## A New Tool in Reducing Obesity

Yes, there is such a thing as obese mice—and recently they have helped scientists take a step toward reversing the ill effects of obesity in humans.

A study led at the University of Illinois identified a key molecular player in a chain of events that can lead to fatty liver disease, Type II diabetes, and other metabolic abnormalities associated with obesity. By blocking this molecule, the researchers were able to reverse some of the pathology it caused in obese mice.

miR-34a, a micro-RNA, or a kind of biological regulator, occurs at higher than normal levels

in the livers of obese animals and in humans with fatty liver disease. Researchers discovered that miR-34a complicates production of a key protein receptor, called beta-Klotho, needed for metabolic signaling in the liver, and hinders normal glucose uptake, glycogen and protein synthesis, and other metabolic activities.

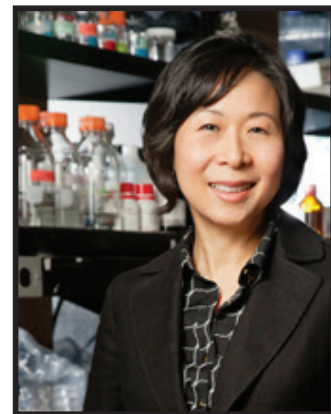
Normally, beta-Klotho contributes to healthy liver function after a meal, says molecular and integrative physiology professor Jongsook Kim Kemper, who led the study. But in obesity, surging levels of miR-34a result in abnormally low levels of beta-Klotho.

"The downstream effect is more glucose in the blood, more fat in the liver," she says.

The effects are dramatic. Slices of liver tissue from obese mice are laden with fat, whereas normal mice have minimal amounts of fat in their livers.

The researchers used a complementary strand of RNA (called antisense RNA) to neutralize miR-34a in obese mice. This therapeutic approach improved "metabolic outcomes, including decreased liver fat and improved glucose level in the blood," Kemper says.

Their findings appear in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. American Diabetes Association supported this research.



## Research without Walls

Research in the humanities is often an independent endeavor. A new initiative originating at the University of Illinois, however, is designed to expand scholarship in the liberal arts by inspiring cross-university collaboration.

"Humanities Without Walls" brings together the scholarship of liberal arts academics across the Midwest. The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the U of I has received a \$100,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to plan the consortium, which includes 13 other institutions, including the University of Notre Dame, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, and others.

"I am very excited about the new funding from the Mellon Foundation," says U of I Chancellor Phyllis Wise. Moreover, she points out that "the current planning grant focuses on demonstrating the benefits of synergies amongst collaborations in the humanities across multiple respected universities."

# EXERCISE BOOSTS BRAINPOWER

PHYSICAL EXERCISE EVEN HAS BENEFITS OVER CERTAIN MENTAL EXERCISE.

By Doug Peterson

If you want to do your mind a favor and boost your ability to learn, a gym might be as good a place to start as a library. After all, University of Illinois research shows that exercise is not just good for the lungs, legs, and arms. It's also good for the brain.

In fact, regular physical exercise may do more to improve general brain function than certain mind exercises, says Justin Rhodes, U of I psy-



chology professor with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

"We've shown that exercise seems to improve your general cognitive abilities," Rhodes says. "The question is how it does that."

Rhodes's work has shed some light on this question, for his research with mice has shown that regular exercise can increase the number of neurons in the brain's hippocampus by two to five times. It also helps existing neurons to survive, causing the hippocampus to grow larger. The hippocampus, a critical part of the brain for memory and learning, is where important sensory information first comes together from various regions of the brain.

"Physical activity seems to engage this structure directly in proportion with the intensity of the activity," he says. "If you walk sluggishly, you get a little benefit. If you run, you get more."

In addition to boosting the number of neurons in the hippocampus, Illinois research found that blood vessel density also increased in the dentate gyrus region of the hippocampus. This makes sense because exercise stimulates the heart rate and blood flow throughout the body, including the brain.

Rhodes's team studied four groups of mice, which make ideal research models because they are genetically and physiologically similar to humans.

- One group was placed in a "sensory exciting" environment with numerous toys, as well as exposure to many types of sounds, colors, textures, and tastes. However, these mice did not have an exercise wheel.
- A second group had both an exercise wheel and the sensory-enriched environment.
- A third group had an exercise wheel, but did not have a sensory-enriched environment.
- The final group had no exercise wheel and no additional sensory stimulation.

Researchers discovered that the increase in neuron numbers was found only in the two groups of mice with running wheels, even those without a sensory-enriched environment.

"So the only thing that mattered for growing neurons was running," he says.

However, Rhodes stresses that his research does not mean that environmental enrichment has no benefit for the brain, even if it doesn't increase neurons in the hippocampus. He says landmark research by William Greenough, Illinois psychology professor emeritus, has long shown that environmental enrichment improves learning in a variety of tasks; it also enhances plasticity (changes in neural pathways) in the motor cortex and cerebellum.

In Rhodes's study, mice that had an increase in neurons also performed significantly better in cognitive learning tests. But *was* the increase in neurons in the hippocampus re-

sponsible for this improved cognitive ability, or was something else coming into play?

To find out, Illinois researchers used irradiation to prevent the brain's hippocampus from growing new neurons, even when the mice exercised. Sure enough, without the increase in neurons, researchers no longer saw benefits in spatial navigation learning. They are now trying to confirm this link between increased neurons and improved learning in a follow-up study with genetically modified mice.

Mice saw benefits after a month of exercising, but Rhodes says other Illinois research has shown that the cognitive benefits of exercise in humans can take about six months of exercise three times per week. Illinois is known for its extensive research on the impacts of exercise, and human studies confirm the benefits of exercise shown by mouse studies.

According to Rhodes, "When you double or triple the number of new neurons and you grow a structure in the brain that is well known to play a role in learning and memory, positive things can happen." ■



# And Now For Something Completely Different



## *Ninth Letter Is Not Your Father's Literary Journal*

*By Doug Peterson*



You never know what to expect with an issue of *Ninth Letter*. Readers might receive a car in one issue...a utility bill in the next one...a postcard from Argentina in another...or maybe a microfiche in the next issue.

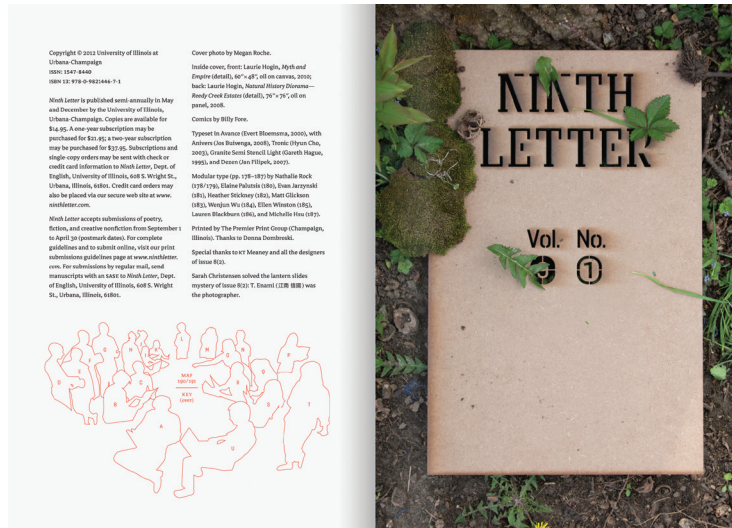
“There’s always something to surprise and delight the reader in *Ninth Letter*,” says Philip Graham, LAS professor of creative writing. “We want readers to say, ‘I wonder what they’ve done this time.’”

***Ninth Letter*, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2013, is a literary journal unlike just about any other in the country. As the Los Angeles Times put it, the journal is “wildly, perfectly beautiful.”**

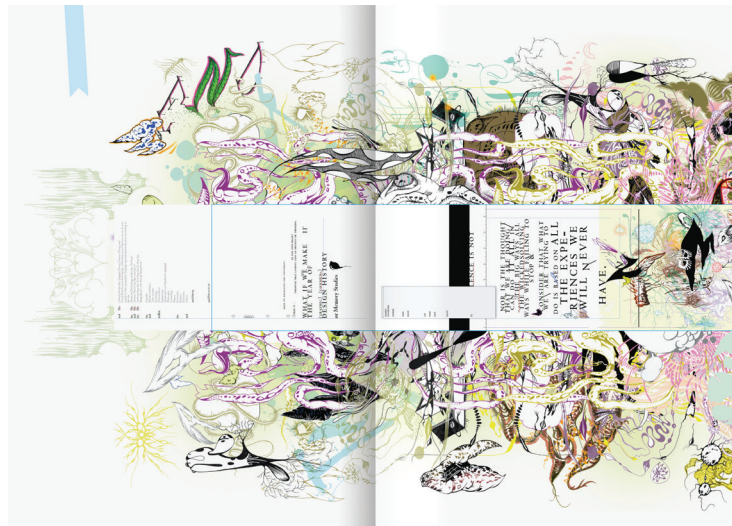
Graham, who serves as *Ninth Letter’s* creative nonfiction editor, says one of his favorite surprises came in an issue accompanying the story “Man of Steel,” by Bryan Furuness. The story is about the relationship between a father and his young son, and it reaches the climax when the two of them are driving home.

“It’s like I’m in two places at once, in the front seat with my father, and beside the car, too,” says the young narrator of the story. “I’m flying alongside through the soft, gray streets of town, like a superhero, or an angel of memory.”

Inspired by this passage, the journal designers decided to include in the issue a cardboard insert



*Ninth Letter* editorial staff.



in which the reader can actually assemble the car that the father was driving with his son sitting alongside. The wheels of the cardboard car even move, and when you push it along, the “angel of memory” hovers over the roof of the vehicle.

In another issue of *Ninth Letter*, a short story focused on a man’s failed relationship as reflected in changes in his water usage. So what did they do? They printed the story on what looked like a utility bill inserted into the middle of the journal. Meanwhile, an essay that dealt with technology falling into obscurity was printed on a microfiche insert, although you could also read it online.

This level of creativity is the result of a unique collaboration between the creative writing program in the College of LAS and the University of Illinois School of Art and Design. The journal comes out twice each year, with creative writing graduate students selecting the content over the span of a semester, as part of a literary editing class. After the content is selected, it is handed over to a class in Art and Design, which designs the issue the following semester.

But as Graham stresses, **“The designers are not illustrating the stories. They are interpreting the stories. There is a real energy that very few magazines have because**



**of the interpretative nature of the art. Every issue is a work of art."**

Most literary journals are staid and serious, heavy on text with little to no variation in design. They often come with straightforward names such as *Chicago Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, or *The Kenyon Review*. But the quirky nature of the Illinois journal even comes across through its enigmatic name—*Ninth Letter*.

Michael Madonick, the journal's poetry editor, says that when the first issue was taking shape, professors and graduate students kicked around several names, with *Flatlands* as the frontrunner. This was at a time when the University was first promoting its new "I" logo, so **Madonick decided to find out what the dictionary had to say about the letter "I."** He encountered this simple definition:

**"The ninth letter of the alphabet."**

Illinois had another literary journal once upon a time—*Accent*, later changed to *Ascent*. This prestigious journal started in 1940 and published many acclaimed authors. In fact, Flannery O'Connor published her first story in *Ascent*. The journal was edited and coordinated by a single professor, Daniel Curley; but when he tragically died in an accident in 1988, the journal eventually disappeared. It wasn't



until U of I started its first master's program in creative writing in 2002 that calls went out to start a new literary journal.

With initial funding from the chancellor's office, the journal hired a full-time editor, Jodee Stanley, who had been editor of the *New England Review*. "Jodee holds the whole thing together," Graham says. "She not only holds together the 30 to 40 people working on each issue, but those 30 to 40 people change each year. How she does it I don't know."

When Stanley came on board in the fall of 2003, the staff didn't have time to put out a call for submissions, so they relied on their connections to assemble the first issue. **Among the contributors to the first issue were Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer, and acclaimed Illinois alumnus Dave Eggers. The issue also included an interview with Yann Martel, author of the best-seller, *Life of Pi*, now a major motion picture.** With writers of such a high caliber in the first issue, the submissions started pouring in, says Stanley, and they now receive about 5,000 per year.

"I was blown away by the initial response to our first issue," she says. "I think it was because people hadn't really seen anything like what we were doing with the visual presentation—certainly not from a university journal."



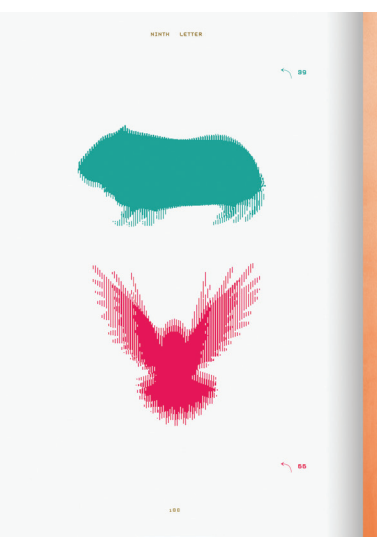
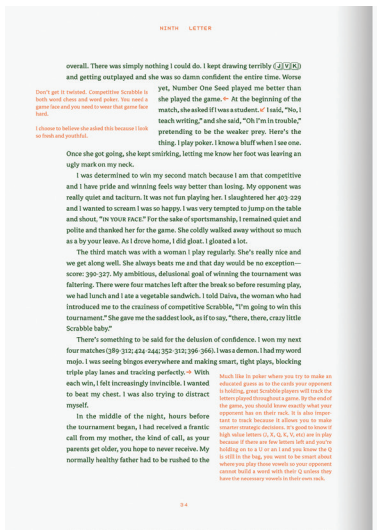
In fact, since the arrival of *Ninth Letter* 10 years ago, Madonick says that other university-based journals have changed—"to some degree as a reaction to what we're doing."

**From the get-go, the journal also started collecting awards, including over 25 national and international awards for design and typography. In 2005, *Ninth Letter* was named Best New Literary Journal by the Council of Learned Journals.**

Every submission is initially read by two people, Stanley says, and both readers have to approve the submission before it can move to the next stage. For fiction, stories move to a committee of graduate students headed up by Stanley, while nonfiction pieces are reviewed by Graham and his student editorial assistants, and poems go to a committee run by Madonick.

"What happens at our weekly meetings is that the students try to keep me quiet, which is not a particularly easy thing to do," says Madonick. He says he likes to watch the students defend their choices for poems, which can be a messy process. But they usually work their way to a consensus, which he says is much more satisfying than simply taking a majority vote and then moving on.

Looking ahead, *Ninth Letter* hosted its first literary contest this spring, and Stanley is working



with art director Matt Peterson and students in computer design to come up with an app that will enable people to read the journal on an iPad. In addition, Stanley has begun teaching an undergraduate class, which will select original content for an online version of the journal.

Meanwhile, the surprises keep coming in both content and design. For instance: Sheila Schwartz's story, "Critical Mass," is told in the voice of cancer, and the accompanying artwork is a "mestazing blob of black ink that keeps getting bigger and bigger as the story goes on," Graham says. "It's a powerful story, and the designer has done something that expresses that power."

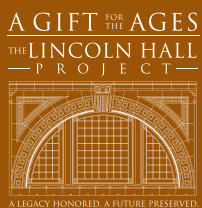
The playful nature also continues to be evident, even in the table of contents, which changes from issue to issue. In one issue, for example, the table of contents appeared on the cover as a series of perforated cards—like baseball cards, except they featured photos of the journals' contributors and the page numbers of their stories.

**"Reading *Ninth Letter* is a little bit like walking into one of those Fun Houses, where the floors are slanted and the water flows up,"** Graham says. "It might look like an ordinary magazine, but once you open the cover you know you have something very different." ■

[www.ninthletter.com](http://www.ninthletter.com)



# COMING OF AGE



This is the sixth and final part in a series on the evolution of higher education at Illinois since the construction of Lincoln Hall.

By Dave Evensen

See the complete history series at [www.lincolnhall.illinois.edu/history](http://www.lincolnhall.illinois.edu/history).  
Images courtesy of University of Illinois Archives.

If a single image defined the University of Illinois' coming of age in the modern era, it might not be a shovel or construction hat but the soft glow of a computer screen.

To be sure, since the 1980s the physical profile of campus has changed dramatically, from new libraries, research institutes, and classroom buildings to high-rise apartments on Green Street. The change in everyday life brought on by advancing computer technology, however, is unparalleled.

Methods of data management, communication, research, education, and entertainment have been turned on their head as computer technology has taken a larger and larger role in our lives—even as computers themselves have shrunk in size until they can slip into our back pocket.

And yet a look back at campus life during the past 30 years reveals not just a shift into a new era. Many attitudes and beliefs that have shaped and defined campus since the construction of Lincoln Hall a century ago have been strongly reaffirmed.



## END OF A HEADACHE

Many alumni can't forget registration if they tried. Once a rite of passage held in the chaotic confines of the Armory, registration was a vivid and often frustrating moment for students who went through the "digestive tract" of scheduling classes and other bureaucratic hurdles necessary for enrollment. It's nothing but a memory, however, as the system went entirely online in 1995. Today, registration requires students just a few quiet moments in front of a computer.



## THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW GATEWAY

It's hard to believe that just 20 years ago programmers at the U of I's National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) developed Mosaic 1.0, the world's first graphical browser credited with making the World Wide Web a household word. Soon after, the U of I came online in 1994 when programmer Kate "Ducky" Sherwood was told only to "go do great things." She designed the first central campus webpages, and the trend grew. Today the Web is considered a gateway to the U of I, with virtually every college, department, and unit maintaining a page.

- ADMISSIONS
- COURSES AND PROGRAMS
- CAMPUS, COMMUNITY, PEOPLE, AND PLACES
- COMPUTING AND INFORMATION RESOURCES
- COLLEGES AND INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS
- OUTREACH
- STUDENT RESOURCES
- TEACHING AND RESEARCH
- ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES
- ALUMNI

Visit the UI at Chicago  
Visit the UI at Springfield  
Visit the other five IL schools

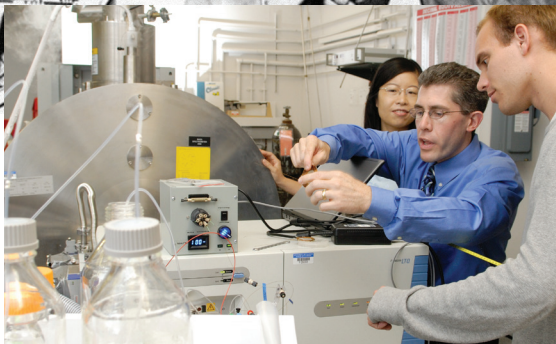
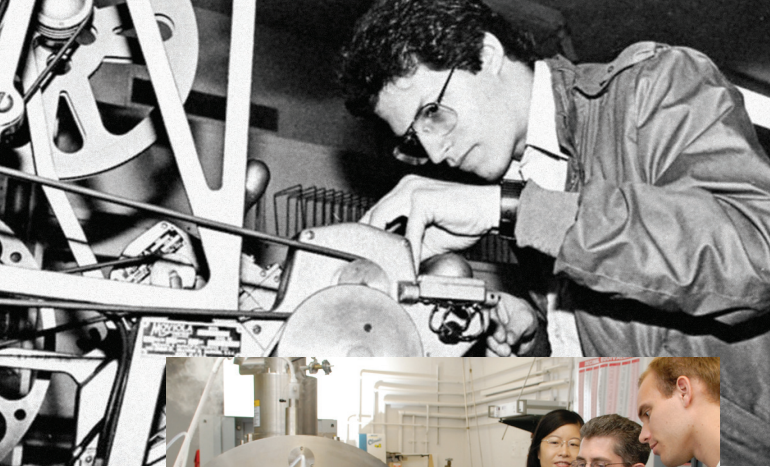
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign home page set is maintained by the Office of Public Affairs and the Computing and Communications Services Office.

Guidelines for and help on creating web pages and referencing them from this server and statistics on usage are available.

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## STUDENTS ARE HEARD

Student protests may have defined the 1960s and early 1970s, but the student protest is not a lost art. In the 1980s, students erected shanty towns on the Quad to urge the U of I to withdraw investments from South Africa for its racial policies (the Board of Trustees eventually agreed). Many other social and environmental causes remain a reason for protest, including debates over what Abbott Power Plant should use as fuel. The Graduate Employees Organization—including many TAs for classes around campus—went on strike in 2009 over tuition waivers.



## KEEPING ABREAST OF CHANGE

The U of I has long been on the cutting edge of technology and how to implement it. In 1985, the U of I was one of the first universities to install a supercomputer, capable of performing tasks within hours that would have taken a year on weaker computers. Researchers across campus still rely heavily upon supercomputers. And as email and Internet usage have become ubiquitous, the U of I has moved to online education. For example, some 80 courses are available through the LAS OnLine program, and in 2012 the U of I partnered with Coursera to offer free online courses worldwide.

## STEERING THROUGH UNCERTAIN TIMES



The U of I was ushered into the 1980s by President Stanley Ikenberry, one of the University's longest serving presidents. Known for several initiatives such as the Beckman Institute and National Center for Supercomputing Applications, he was followed in 1995 by James Stukel, remembered for reorganizations in technology initiatives and pushing for increases in federal research funding and private giving.

Ikenberry returned to the presidency temporarily in 2009 when the U of I faced uncertain times at the helm. Today the University is led by President Bob Easter and Chancellor Phyllis Wise on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

## GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Scholars and researchers in the College of LAS have broken new ground in technology, our understanding of life, and our way of thinking. They include many researchers in the sciences, such as chemistry professor Ryan Bailey, who has found new applications for nanotechnology. Scholars have written influential books, such as Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker*, and added insight to national debates, such as philosophy professor David Sussman, whose thoughts on the immorality of torture came to light during the Iraq war. Eight scientists in atmospheric sciences shared part in a 2007 Nobel Prize for their work on climate change, and May Berenbaum became known not only for her research on insects but the effective ways she communicates that research with the public.

## ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS IN A TOUGH ECONOMY

Means of funding the University have changed. With state support for the U of I falling to roughly 15 percent of its annual budget, the University has more reliance placed upon tuition, research grants, and private giving. The trend has been occurring for many years, and in 1983, with students facing high inflation and falling student aid, President Stanley Ikenberry linked the U of I to economic development. "A strong University of Illinois is indispensable to any plan to lead this state toward sound, long economic recovery," he wrote in a release. "A strong University is indispensable as this state moves toward an economy with greater reliance on new knowledge, on science, and technology."



## MAJOR DEBATE

With hard economic times hitting the U of I in the early 1980s, many in the humanities felt under fire to justify their programs against the physical sciences and engineering. The late Richard Scanlan, the widely popular professor of classic civilizations, handled the issue memorably. "It's important to give students a well-rounded education," he said, as reported by the *Illio* in 1986. "You can work 8 to 5 as an engineer, but there has to be more to life than building bridges.... Students see that the people at the dawn of civilization were asking the same questions they are today: 'Why is there evil? Why do good people suffer?' Mythology is the oldest source and contains truths as the Greeks saw them. It attempted to explain the world around them, and the powers greater than them. We can learn from them through the questions we've yet to find satisfactory answers to."

## CHANGES IN STUDENT LIFE

It's been an era of distinct change for students, starting right away in 1980, when the drinking age was raised from 19 to 21. The University loosened certified housing restrictions, and more entertainment came from the small screen, with MTV becoming a sensation when it launched in 1981. McKinley Health Center tested students during an AIDS scare in the mid-1980s, and in 1985 hundreds of students flocked to the Observatory to observe Halley's Comet. The University's first student computer fee was instituted in 1987, and credit card usage by students skyrocketed in the 1990s. The *Daily Illini* became a free paper in 1997, and the I-Clicker, an invention from the U of I, has changed student-instructor classroom interaction nationwide. Social media has exploded in popularity, with Facebook arriving in 2004.



## THE LAST DANCE

After years of debate, Chief Illiniwek performed his last dance on February 21, 2007, at halftime of a sold-out men's basketball game. Earlier, the Board of Trustees had ruled that for the first time in 81 years the Chief would no longer be a symbol of the University.

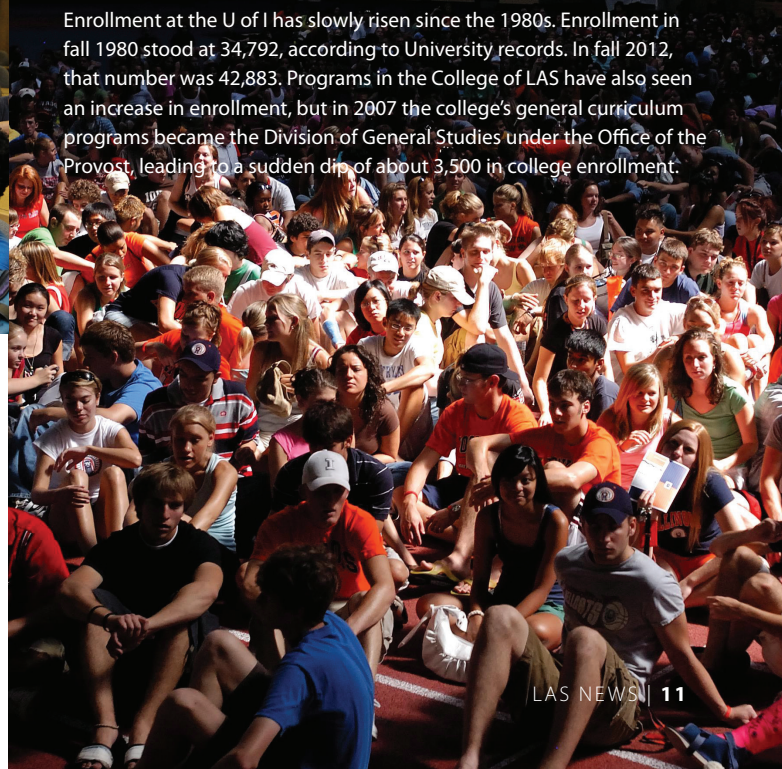
## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

The physical size of campus has increased since the 1980s. New construction included the Beckman Institute, Spurlock Museum, College of Business Instructional Facility, Grainger Engineering Library, Campus Recreation Center East, and Timothy J. Nugent Hall. There have also been notable renovations, including the renovation and renaming of Foellinger Auditorium, and the renovation of Lincoln Hall, which has been referred to as a symbol of the U of I's longstanding commitment to education.



## GROWING ENROLLMENT

Enrollment at the U of I has slowly risen since the 1980s. Enrollment in fall 1980 stood at 34,792, according to University records. In fall 2012, that number was 42,883. Programs in the College of LAS have also seen an increase in enrollment, but in 2007 the college's general curriculum programs became the Division of General Studies under the Office of the Provost, leading to a sudden dip of about 3,500 in college enrollment.



## NEW APPROACHES TO EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Changes in technology and infrastructure have been accompanied by changes in education and programs. In 1996, after nearly 80 years of a five-point grading scale, the U of I switched to a four-point scale. In addition to new online courses, many on-campus courses now have online elements. Studying abroad has grown, as have new programs intended to ease the transition for incoming freshmen. Administrators have placed growing emphasis on career development opportunities. And interactive teaching techniques are being developed particularly in large classrooms to provide more hands-on education.



## SILICON VALLEY PIONEER

*By Dave Evensen*

Christina Brodbeck remembers clearly the moment she realized that the obscure video-sharing website that she had worked on day and night was becoming a household word.

It was just a few years after she graduated from the U of I, and she was living in California without a job. Actually, she'd had a decent job, but she quit to join her friends and former U of I students, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, in developing an impulsive idea they were already working on for a new website called YouTube.

Her parents were calling from back home in Illinois. "Do you have income?" they asked. "Can you afford a doctor?" But in the beginning there was no office, no pay, and no benefits.

The moment she realized her life had begun to change was a vivid one, like a rock singer hearing his song on the radio for the first time. It even happened at a concert.

"For a very long time I remember thinking, 'Oh, not too many people know about YouTube, it's just our friends and family,'" Brodbeck recalls. But she was at a concert one day when she happened to be near two people she didn't know who were filming each other with a camera. One of them said they were going to post the video on YouTube.

"And that's when it dawned on me," Brodbeck says, "that, oh, people know about YouTube!"

You can't exactly say the rest is history, because not only does YouTube continue to grow (the website had 1 trillion views in 2011) but Brodbeck (AB '01, history) is only in her 30s, and she's moved on to co-found a new website, [theicebreak.com](http://theicebreak.com). But her time as a founding team member of YouTube—she was the company's first user interface designer—was a defining moment.

In November 2006, one year after YouTube was incorporated, the company was purchased by Google for \$1.65 billion in stock.

### House Crashing to YouTube

Brodbeck grew up in Illinois with an entrepreneurial spirit, hatching schemes as a girl to sell handmade bags in Japan and conduct neighborhood talent shows. None of these ideas were particularly successful, but they explain the reasoning behind some of the risks she took later.

She came to the U of I to major in history, but one day she happened upon her roommate, a computer science major, creating a webpage. It was fascinating to Brodbeck, and before long she picked up a book on HTML and was teaching herself computer graphic design.



Brodbeck scaling Alma Mater circa 2000.

In her spare time between classes in Russian and colonial history, she worked on Web design. Her first website, she recalls with a laugh, was a blinking, flashing amateur job on GeoCities, a Web hosting service no longer available in the U.S. But her designs improved and she began offering her services for free. Then she started to get paid for it.

Upon graduation she opted not for law school but California, where she crashed with her friends until she picked up a day job that paid the bills. At night she earned an advanced degree in multimedia design at San Francisco State University.

She remains interested in history, and Brodbeck credits her college education with a concise and clear writing style that has helped sell many ideas, but she felt that moving to California was a necessary risk for her chosen career.

began working on the site. Along with her role as the company's first user interface designer, she led design for the mobile sites—as YouTube ascended to bigger and bigger office suites—until 2009, when she left for a new venture.

### Beyond YouTube

From Brodbeck's telling, [theicebreak.com](http://theicebreak.com) is the result of romance and business sense coming together.

The site, which she cofounded with Dwipal Desai, a co-worker from YouTube, encourages communication between committed couples by posing questions, activities, and other customized features intended to add spark when things become mundane.

As part of a long, on-and-off relationship herself, the idea of helping couples resonated with Brodbeck (she says she and her boyfriend now use it all the time). The idea also appealed to the entrepreneur inside her. Before [theicebreak.com](http://theicebreak.com), they had experimented with creating a singles site.

"We quickly learned that the best dating site in the world wouldn't have any users on it because you've matched them all up," she says. "It was exciting when we would match people up, but then it was kind of depressing because you've lost your users, right?"

They are not releasing figures, but Brodbeck says they are happy with the number of people visiting [theicebreak.com](http://theicebreak.com), with many of them coming from the Midwest.

Brodbeck is also using the carryover success from YouTube to be an angel investor. So far she's invested in 22 startup companies, most of them in the technology sector (and one beer company) as a way of paying forward all the help she received until now.

"I feel like I've been really lucky in my life in terms of people being very supportive of the dreams and chances that I've wanted to take," she says.

She jokes that her life now would have been some relief to her parents just a few years ago, had they been given a glimpse. But perhaps they already had a notion of what was to come. She still recalls what her dad told her after college, as she was about to board the plane to California.

Good luck, little pioneer, he said. ■



Website and app screens from Brodbeck's latest venture, [TheIcebreak.com](http://TheIcebreak.com).

"Silicon Valley was really where that was happening," Brodbeck says. "And if I wanted to work in that, that's where I wanted to go."

Fortunately, she adds, there are many people from the U of I in Silicon Valley. And when her friends at YouTube needed a user interface designer, Brodbeck joined them in summer 2005, just a little while after they

# THE ARCHIVES OF THE WORLD

By Doug Peterson

Amanz Gressly, a quiet, quirky man, regularly set off on hikes in the Alps, disappearing for months at a time. This Swiss geologist would spend the night wherever he could, in a barn or house, and he lived simply and frugally, filling his pockets with fossils as he went.

On one trek in the 1830s, Gressly noticed that the beautiful rocks in the Alps were full of corals, and he concluded that there used to be an ocean there. He also realized that by studying layers of rocks, you could reconstruct ancient environments. Gressly was a pioneer in sedimentology, and he continues to inspire researchers such as Bruce Fouke, University of Illinois geologist and microbiologist.



Bruce Fouke

Like Gressly, Fouke's research takes him to some of the most stunning environments in the world: the colorful coral reefs of the Caribbean island of Curaçao; the blindingly white deposits of travertine in Yellowstone National Park; and the dramatic arches of the Roman aqueducts in Italy. But Fouke says the thread running through all of his projects is the kind of work begun by Gressly. He seeks the past by studying today's "rock record," or what some have called "the archives of the world."

Fouke's quest is to discover how the environment has controlled life on Earth, and how life adapts and even alters the environment, for better or for worse. His team sometimes takes about 1,000 photographs in a single day, using the images as a stunning data repository. These pages display just a small sample.

Images by Bruce Fouke and his research team.

## Battling Black Band Disease with Black Boxes

It begins with a small black pinpoint of infection on the top of healthy "coral heads" along the reef tract of the southern Caribbean island of Curaçao. Unchecked, black band disease spreads down and out as a thick black ring, stripping away the coral's tissue and leaving behind a naked coral skeleton.

"It's like a flesh-eating lesion," says Fouke.

Illinois researchers discovered that a community of bacteria, some of which come from human sewage, is the source of the problem. They also discovered that putting coral inside a box could combat the deadly disease. By covering the infected coral heads, they block the sunlight and kill the bacterial culprits behind black band disease. Researchers cover the coral for four or five days, which is enough to kill the bacteria without harming the coral itself.



## Updating the Story of Roman Ruins

Rome wasn't built in a day, and its infrastructure didn't fall in a day—or even in a few hundred years. In fact, Illinois geologists have found that the most famous component of the Roman infrastructure—the aqueducts—actually survived and functioned as much as 400 years longer than once supposed.

Historians long believed that the famous Roman aqueducts stopped flowing in 537 A.D. after Ostrogoths breached the walls of Rome. But after studying the steady buildup of travertine deposition within the aqueducts, Illinois researchers concluded that they continued to flow until nearly 950 A.D.—another 400 years after the barbarian conquest.

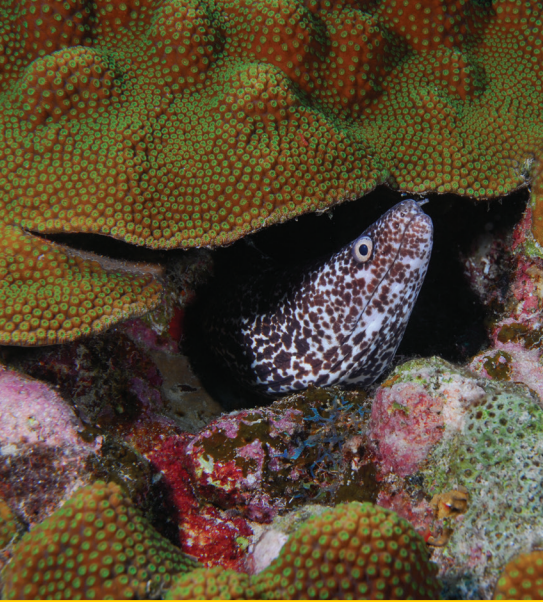
It makes sense, says Fouke, that Ostrogoths wouldn't destroy the Roman infrastructure, such as the aqueducts. They would want to keep using this remarkable system, which moved spring water from the Apennine Mountains to Rome.

Fouke and his colleagues study travertine deposits within the aqueducts to answer many other questions about the water and the time period. What kinds of microbes lived in the water at the time? Were they photosynthetic? What were the depth, flow rate, and temperature of the water?

"We can reconstruct all of this from the rock record," Fouke says.







## From Yellowstone to Mars

Yellowstone National Park is best known for its macro-scale wildlife, such as bears, elk, and bison, but the park also teems with life on a micro scale. Illinois researchers are studying fossilized remains of these tiny creatures to get a clearer picture of the pre-historic past—research that is now playing a role in the search for life on Mars by the Curiosity Rover.

Travertine is a form of limestone on dramatic display in the terraced hot springs of Yellowstone. Illinois researchers study travertine to document how microbes become fossilized in the rocks—a process that tells scientists a wealth of information about the environmental conditions experienced by heat-loving microbes in the geological past.

“Yellowstone is a great natural laboratory,” says Fouke.

By studying the fossil record of bacteria in travertine deposits, Illinois researchers have also helped to identify what is and is not a fossilized microbe, which is difficult to do. Understanding how to identify fossilized microbes on Earth will help to identify microbial fossils on Mars, should they be discovered from current rover drilling activities into the crust of the Red Planet.



LAS ALUMNA RECEIVES MEDAL OF VALOR FOR WORK IN AFRICA

**WHEN THE BOMBS STARTED FALLING, SUSAN NAGELE SPURTED FOR A LARGE TRENCH, LOCATED CLOSE TO THE MAKE-SHIFT HOSPITAL THAT SHE HAD SET UP IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN SUDAN, AFRICA. NAGELE, A PHYSICIAN, WILL NEVER FORGET CROUCHING IN THE HOLE WITH ABOUT 20 OTHERS AS THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT DROPPED BOMBS ON ITS OWN PEOPLE, AND ONE EXPLODED ONLY ABOUT 600 FEET AWAY.**

*By Doug Peterson*

# COURAGE



Later that same day, Nagele was amputating a bomb victim's leg when a man was brought in with a mysterious ailment. The man was clearly dying, but she could find no serious entry or exit wound—just a minor shrapnel wound on the calf—so she treated him as best as she could.

After the man died, Nagele learned that he was from a people who believed that any wound to the back of the leg is fatal. That is why Nagele suspects that the man may have died from fright.

Fear is something that LAS alumna Nagele has had to face for all of her adult life as she battled AIDS, measles, snakebites, cancer, TB, tapeworms, and more in some of the most dangerous regions of Africa. This courage recently earned her the Medal of Valor, awarded by the American Medical Association.

Nagele grew up in Urbana, and she first became interested in working for people in need when she made volunteer trips to Appalachia with the Newman Center at St. John's Catholic Church

Kowak. She saw eight AIDS patients in 1987, 13 in 1988, and 39 in 1989.

In 1991, Nagele moved to Sudan, which had been embroiled in a civil war for eight years, ever since the northern government tried to impose Sharia law on the entire country. She worked in Torit and then in Nimule, where she drove 14 miles three times a week to work in a camp for displaced people—the camp where bombs often fell.

Although she sometimes received assistance from other physicians, Nagele usually was the only trained doctor for 30,000 refugees in two camps.

After working for six years in a war zone, she moved to a less-violent region of Sudan and worked with semi-nomadic people who had



have a child. When Natalia was four months pregnant, the war forced her and Nagele to flee the area, and they went in different directions. Nagele assumed she would

never see her again.

Nagele returned to Sudan for a celebration in 2008, and as she walked through the crowd of thousands of people, greeting old friends, she suddenly realized that she knew one of the cooks working at the event.

It was Natalia.

"Natalia looked at me, and she shouted, 'Susan!'" Nagele recalls. "Then the two of us ran to each other, and if hugs could kill, we both would have been dead."

She learned that Natalia had given birth to a

# UNDER FIRE

at the University of Illinois. As the daughter of a dentist, Nagele was interested in medicine, so she majored in biology and also volunteered to help with a vaccination program in Nicaragua during her junior year.

She finished at Illinois in 1978, received her medical degree from Southern Illinois University in 1981, and after her residency she entered the Catholic Church's Maryknoll Lay Missioners program. Her first mission, in 1985, was in Kowak, Tanzania, where she helped to convert a dispensary into a 32-bed hospital.

During her first two years in Tanzania, measles was a major scourge, and she recalls seeing two to three children die from it every single day. In response, they instituted a vaccination program, and by the time she started her second three-year stint, measles was no longer a killer.

The other major threat was AIDS, which increased exponentially in the small village of

never had contact with modern medicine. Then, in 2003, Nagele left Sudan for Kenya, where she spent four years creating a 32-bed health center. It



was finished just in time, as the country descended into violence in January of 2008 following a disputed presidential election. Nine thousand displaced people poured into the small town, and she says, "I felt like I was back in Sudan."

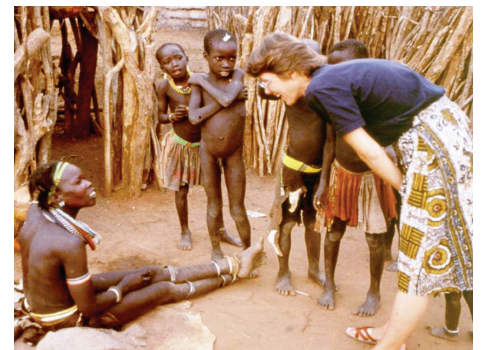
Today, Nagele works in Mombasa, traveling to 19 different clinics, consulting with staff,

and teaching. But even after all of the years, one patient stands out in her mind—Natalia, a pregnant Sudanese woman who came to her in 1992. Nagele helped Natalia fight a pelvic infection so that the young woman could become pregnant. It was a desperate situation, for Natalia's husband was going to look for a new wife if she couldn't

healthy baby girl in 1992. In fact, that girl—now 16 years old—was at the celebration, so Natalia brought her daughter to see Nagele.

"What is your name?" Nagele asked in English.

"When the girl didn't understand," she says, "I spoke in a simple form of Arabic and asked again, 'What is your name?' And she said, 'My name is Susan.'"



Nagele was stunned: The girl had been named after her.

"I don't have any children of my own," she says, "but I have a feeling there are a few children out there because of what we did." ■

# WHO'S AFRAID OF THE DARK?

HISTORIAN TRACES THE REVOLUTION OF THE NIGHT.

By Doug Peterson

Benjamin Franklin once wrote a letter in the *Journal de Paris* about staying up with friends until “three or four hours after midnight,” thanks to his new Argand oil-lamp. In his 1784

letter, he went on to joke that he had become so accustomed to sleeping until noon every day that he was surprised to discover the sun rose between six and eight in the morning.

While Franklin's night-owl habits may describe your average teenager today, they represent a revolution in behavior that began in the mid-1600s and had taken root by Franklin's time, says University of Illinois

history professor Craig Koslofsky. Prior to the era of improved lighting, both indoors and out, most people went to bed with sunset and rose at sunrise, sometimes earlier.

Koslofsky has tracked the dramatic changes in attitudes on the night, demonstrating how people in early modern Europe slowly became “nocturnalized.” They tamed the night, making it safer for respectable citizens, rather than just a time for evil spirits, thieves, tavern-goers, rabble-rousing youth, and prostitutes.

In 1667, Paris (the City of Light) became the first city to introduce street lighting, says Koslofsky, author of *Evening's Empire*, which *Atlantic* magazine chose as one of the best 15 books reviewed in the magazine or published in 2012. Parisians installed large, fat candles in glass lanterns and suspended them over the city's streets. There was no system for relighting the candles, so they burned for a couple of hours and then the city plunged back into darkness.

Amsterdam, the third European city to install public street lighting, had a much more sophisticated system, in which oil lanterns were mounted on poles that had holes to draw in air and feed combustion. The Dutch used a special type of oil that didn't freeze in the winter, and the airflow even kept soot

off of the glass. It was sophisticated—and expensive.

The first street lamps, particularly the simple Parisian system, used technology that had been available for hundreds of years. So why did street lighting not arrive until the mid- to late 1600s? Koslofsky believes it has to do with changing attitudes toward the night and darkness—a change that preceded the advent of public street lights.

“The night was closely associated with danger, both natural and supernatural,” he says. “But in the 17th century, Europeans were beginning to see opportunities to expand their authority throughout the world.”

Just as explorers colonized far-flung countries, Europeans saw an opportunity to “colonize” the night by using public lighting to allow people to move into a world of darkness once considered too forbidding. This change in attitude toward the night was evident throughout the culture, including the church and royal courts.

The church had always emphasized the conflict between light and dark, seeing darkness as a symbol of evil; but during the Reformation in the 16th century, Christians began to see a more positive side to the night.

Christians saw the dark hours as a time of refuge, as Protestants in Catholic countries and Catholics in Protestant countries were forced to worship at night to avoid persecution. Nicodemus, the Biblical figure who visited Jesus at night, became a more revered person.

According to Koslofsky, “The nocturnal side of Christianity developed, as mystics talked about darkness as a pathway to God”—an

idea explored by St. John of the Cross in his poem “The Dark Night of the Soul.”

In palaces, royalty began to flaunt their power over darkness by staging opulent displays of lighting, including fireworks, he adds. Royal celebrations in the past had taken place mostly at day, but King Louis XIV of France led the move toward nocturnalization, showing that he had the power and resources to light up Paris, turning night into day.

Ironically, as King Louis XIV helped to light up his cities, his actions inadvertently spawned a subversive coffeehouse movement. Men began to meet at coffeehouses at night to discuss politics, philosophy, and religion, and they began to challenge authorities such as the monarchy. As the public sphere expanded into the night, he says, some governments tried to suppress the coffeehouse movement—often unsuccessfully.

Changes also occurred in the theater. During Shakespeare's day in the early 1600s, theaters were open-air to let in the sunlight and plays were performed by day. The only

way audiences even knew it was night was through dialogue. But with the rise of the Baroque Theater, playhouses became enclosed, allowing directors to use light for dramatic effect. Light and darkness became something you could manipulate—a resource you could use.

“We go from seeing darkness as something dangerous and best to be avoided to something that could be used selectively,” Koslofsky says. People domesticated the darkness for their use, much

the same way they had domesticated dogs.

“The wrong dog can still be pretty scary,” he adds, just as darkness can still frighten people today. “But when the night becomes a threat today,” he says, “we have Take Back the Night marches, or we confront our fears by going to horror movies where things go bump in the night. We can only do that because we've domesticated the real source of fear.” ■



# SHATTERING CEILINGS

Lynn Martin, former Secretary of Labor, honors women teachers in LAS

By Doug Peterson

It was a different world on campus when Lynn Martin attended the University of Illinois in the late 1950s.

Martin does not recall having any woman professors when she was at Illinois, other than her physical education teacher. (P.E. was required at the time.) Female students also had curfews, which the men did not—although as Martin puts it, “A curfew did provide a good excuse to politely end a boring date.”

Because women politicians were rare, Martin says she did not even consider a career in politics when she graduated in 1960 in English, even though she had been highly involved in student politics at Illinois and had minored in political science.

In fact, it wasn't until 10 years later that she got her first taste of local politics and went on to become one of the most visible leaders among the first wave of women politicians at the national level. During this exhilarating time for women, she served in Congress and as the Secretary of Labor under President George H.W. Bush, and she even considered a run for the presidency in 1996.

With her passion for encouraging women trailblazers, it is no surprise that she chose in 1991 to establish the Lynn M. Martin Award for Distinguished Women Teachers. This year's winners—Pat Gill in gender and women's studies and Stephanie Mager in geology—were honored at a ceremony in April. In addition, AT&T presented a contribution to Martin's teacher's fund at a May 2 reception in tribute to her career and service on AT&T's Board of Directors.

Martin was a young mother when she began her career in the early 1960s as a half-time teacher

at Wheaton Central and St. Francis high schools, both in the Chicago suburb of Wheaton. When she and her husband picked up stakes and moved to Rockford, they happened to buy a house sandwiched between the Democratic county chairman on one side and a Republican state representative on the other.

Politics was in the air when neighbors would gather in backyards for cheese and crackers, wine, beer, and soft drinks. So, in 1970, she volunteered to work on Betty Ann Keegan's successful campaign for the state's constitutional convention, and then she ran for the Winnebago County Board in 1972.

On the night of this first election, she says, “We were having dinner when someone came into the restaurant and told me, ‘I'm sorry, the election was close, but you lost.’ But it turned out that the election was not close, and I had won. From that experience, I learned that it's a lot more fun to win, but that it's also a good thing to know what it is to lose. You find that the world goes on. It isn't just about you.”

As it turned out, Martin didn't taste defeat very often, as she went on to be elected as state representative, then state senator, and finally as U.S. Representative in the 16th District of Illinois from 1981 to 1991. Winning her first congressional race in 1980 made her a quickly-rising star, for she was one of four Republican women elected that year—more women than had ever been elected to Congress at one time.

“We were on TV a lot because people were astounded by this,” she says. “It was incredibly invigorating. This was a period when people thought that in 10 or 15 years there would be a woman president and half of Congress would be

women. That was the excitement of the times, although none of it occurred.”

Martin stood in for Geraldine Ferraro when Vice President Bush was preparing to debate the first female vice presidential candidate. She also became friends with Ferraro and says, “As I once told her, I knew everything about her because I had researched her so thoroughly for the debate.”

President Bush went on to name Martin as Secretary of Labor from 1991 through 1993—a tenure noted for her work on shattering the “glass ceiling,” the iconic symbol for the barriers facing women and other minorities in the workplace. Even after her stint in the cabinet, shattering the glass ceiling became a common theme in her work, as she served as chair of the Council for the Advancement of Women for the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche.

“These efforts were all business driven,” she says, “because it's an asset if you have the kind of business in which you hire the best people, regardless of gender or race.”

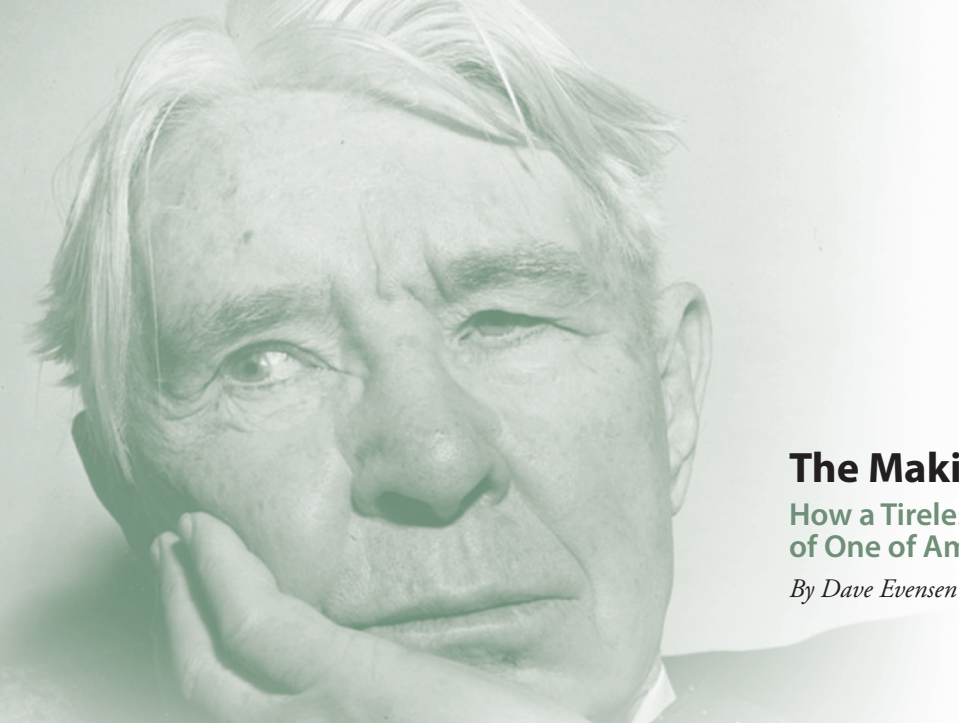
Martin's list of credentials goes on, for she has served on many boards, taught at Northwestern and Harvard, and was described by ABC-TV news anchor Ted Koppel as “one of the most skilled politicians in the Republican party.” In 1993, she was even on the short list in the search for a new commissioner of Major League Baseball. Martin is a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan, despite being raised on the northwest side of Chicago, because her father grew up in St. Louis.

As a teacher at heart and a loyal Illini, she says she is thrilled to recognize the best women undergraduate professors and teaching assistants with her award. She continues to encourage women in all walks of life, meeting regularly with a group of young women professionals, talking about their futures in industry.

“I'm also overwhelmed with great friends and great family,” she says. “I would wish my life on anyone.” ■



Paul La Schiazza, president of AT&T Illinois, Lynn Martin (center), and University of Illinois Chancellor Phyllis Wise celebrate at the May 2 reception in Martin's honor.



## The Making of the Sandburg Collection

How a Tireless English Professor Obtained the Library of One of America's Greatest Poets

By Dave Evensen

The discovery of an unpublished poem by the late Carl Sandburg was national news this past January when it was uncovered at the U of I. What many don't know is the story of friendship and determination that explains how it got to campus in the first place.

A volunteer discovered Sandburg's lost poem, "A Revolver," as he indexed more than four tons of books, manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, and other documents that make up the Sandburg collection at the U of I Archives. So how did the U of I obtain the collection when the revered poet was never even a student here?

The answer: Not easily—and not without lots of foresight.

According to Valerie Hotchkiss, head of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the story dates back to 1950, when Bruce Weirick, an English professor at the U of I and a friend of Sandburg's who had written about him, asked the poet if he wanted his collections stored at the University. Sandburg was interested.

His interest was not entirely a surprise. Aside from his connection with Weirick (who would negotiate terms of the transfer), Sandburg, an Illinois native, had by then spoken on campus several times, and he would later speak at the dedication of Assembly Hall.

Nonetheless, Sandburg's willingness to turn everything over to the U of I was remarkable enough

that when the transfer was being finalized, he was asked about it by a reporter at the *Daily Illini*.

"Illinois is my native state," he cried into the phone, according to Hotchkiss. "You don't think I would give my library to Nebraska or New Jersey or Massachusetts, do you? I have a reverence for the University of Illinois. It represents my native state."

Initially, not everyone at the U of I was sold on the idea, however. When the proposal emerged to buy the collection for \$30,000—a fraction of its market value—some faculty questioned the value of the collection and doubted its research potential.

Faced with those opinions, the library recommended against the purchase unless it could be done with private funds.

Undeterred, Professor Weirick collected letters from 75 leading authors, intellectuals, and politicians, says Hotchkiss, including Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson II, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist James Reston, and a former U of I president. Eventually the U of I Foundation offered to pay for the collection, and the faculty agreed.

"And so, because of one indefatigable LAS faculty member, Carl Sandburg's library and his papers came to the University of Illinois," Hotchkiss says. "The first shipments came (from his home in Flat Rock, N.C.) in 1956, (in) 150 boxes weigh-

ing 8,560 lbs. Many shipments followed, with most of the manuscript material coming after his death in 1967."

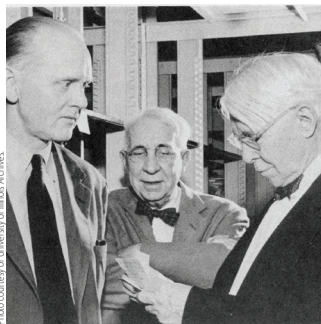
According to the August 1, 1956, *Daily Illini*, the collection included 3,000 books on Abraham Lincoln (Sandburg's biography of Lincoln, *Abraham Lincoln: The War*

*Years*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1940). U of I English professor emeritus George Hendrick, who edited several volumes of Sandburg's poems, says the newly discovered poem may have been inspired by the Lincoln assassination.

The collection also included original manuscripts of poems (Sandburg's other two Pulitzer Prizes were for books of poetry, *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg* and *Cornhuskers*) estimated at the time to be worth thousands of dollars. More material was sent by his wife, Lilian, and daughter Margaret.

And the Sandburg collection continues to grow today, as new material comes on the market or is donated to the U of I. In 2012, the library added several letters, a short unpublished story, and the archive of one of Sandburg's secretaries.

So far in 2013, Hotchkiss adds, the library has acquired letters and manuscripts from Sandburg's years in Michigan, materials from the archives of his daughter Helga, and documents from William A. Smith, who painted Sandburg's portrait in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. ■



Carl Sandburg (right) reviews some of his manuscripts with Robert Downs, director of the U of I Library (left) and Bruce Weirick, professor emeritus of English, circa 1956.

# For Those Who Can't Refuse a Good Story...

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES Storyography

“The least we could do was to organize protests and to show the powers that be that we cared about this country and that we were going to question authority. Sometimes it got ugly.”

—Carolyn Sharp Kelley  
(AB '71, English education; AM '72, teaching of English)  
on her experience as a student protester  
at the U of I during the Vietnam War.

“It would be fine for maybe a week at a time. But then my joints would just start to ache like crazy, like I was already old.”

—Brian Kung  
(AB '11, East Asian languages and cultures)  
describes living on campus in a car.

“I remember I think easily six days a week, sometimes seven days a week, I don't remember doing almost hardly anything else but going into the lab. It was like a complete dedication.”

—Terry Balle  
(PhD '80, chemistry)  
discusses the life and untimely death of  
promising chemistry professor Willis 'Bill' Flygare.

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**I**LLINOIS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# HOMECOMING 2013

**Celebrate with LAS  
Saturday, October 26, 2013**

**Join LAS alumni and friends for the 2013  
Homecoming celebration!**

- Reminisce with fellow alumni and meet the dean
- Enjoy food, beverages, and entertainment
- View displays of Illinois and College of LAS memorabilia
- Attend the Illinois vs. Michigan State football game (discounted rate of \$43/ticket)

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Atkins Building in U of I Research Park

1800 S. First Street, Champaign

*(Two blocks from Memorial Stadium and across from the I-Hotel)*

**Registration deadline: Friday, October 18, 2013**

**Registration begins August 15!**

Access our website to register at [www.las.illinois.edu/alumni/events](http://www.las.illinois.edu/alumni/events) or call toll-free (877) 265-4910. Football tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be distributed at the pre-game event upon check-in.