

LAS

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FALL SILENT



FALL 2017

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On the cover: A close-up view of the Altgeld Hall Tower bells. Photo by Heather Gillett.



GREETINGS FROM THE College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dear friends,

We're just days into the semester, but I'm already confident that this will be an eventful and exciting fall in the College of LAS. Among the developments I'm proud to share with you:

- **We're introducing the Life + Career Design Lab.** Located inside Lincoln Hall, the lab will help LAS undergraduates make the most of their college and post-college experiences. Using design-thinking, college staff will guide them as they think about their future and facilitate experiences like study abroad, workshops, and internships.
- **We're welcoming students back to upgraded facilities.** The Natural History Building, closed in 2014 because of structural deficiencies, is back and better than ever. It features many collaborative spaces including a biology honors hub and new active learning classroom, complete with modular furniture and multiple digital display screens. We also reopened the Chemistry Annex. Read more about it on page 15.
- **We've launched new minors and certificates.** These allow our students even more opportunities to tailor their education to their dreams. New offerings include certificates in environmental writing, data science, interfaith studies, and social science research. New minors include criminology, law, and society; Arabic studies; and history.

Our college is thriving despite a State of Illinois budget battle that went on for more than two years and significantly reduced funding to all institutions of higher education across Illinois. The legislature finally passed a new budget in July, and the university and the College of LAS are once again able to plan around stable funding. We remain focused on the future.

Our future will be brightest with your support. More alumni support, corporate partnerships, and research funding will help us meet our goal of delivering a 21st century education to more than 14,000 students each year. It will help us empower our faculty to conduct the groundbreaking research that Illinois is known for.

You can help future generations of Illini by sharing your time and treasure. Your advocacy matters. Be a champion for the university in your community and in your workplace. Join Illinois Connection (go.illinois.edu/illinoisconnection) and get involved. Or, consider making an investment in our people. If your situation allows, your support of our scholarships, faculty, or facilities projects can have a long-lasting impact. Learn more on page 24.

With my best wishes,

Feng Sheng Hu,
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Illinois chemist elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Scott Denmark, (left), professor of chemistry, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Denmark's research is centered on the invention, stereochemical study, and mechanistic understanding

of new synthetic reactions, as well as their application to the synthesis of complex molecular structures. "This honor is a wonderful acknowledgement of the scores of graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and undergraduates whose dedicated efforts are being recognized and to whom I am eternally grateful," Denmark said. ■

Psychology alumna named Chicago Illini of the Year



Rebecca A. Darr (BS, '90, psychology) has been named a 2017 Chicago Illini of the Year for growing the Illinois-based Women in Need of Growing Stronger (WINGS) program into one of the state's largest social service agencies for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

In 2005, Darr led an effort to build the first domestic violence shelter in Chicago's northwest suburbs that has since protected more than 2,000 women and children from abuse and homelessness. ■

Religion professor awarded Guggenheim Fellowship



Jonathan Ebel, professor of religion, has been awarded a 2017 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. He was selected on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise, according to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Ebel will use his fellowship

to complete work on a religious history of the Great Depression and the New Deal in agricultural California. ■



Let it snow: Illinois researchers help create precipitation

It's so dry in Idaho that even snow is a welcome sight. That's why researchers from Illinois joined a project funded by the National Science Foundation to create precipitation. Called SNOWIE for short, the project studied how releasing silver iodide in the atmosphere—called cloud seeding—can create snow.

"We want to convert water droplets in the cloud to ice crystals before the cloud sweeps over the mountains," said **Bob Rauber**, head of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. (Photo by Karen Kosiba.) ■

Faculty honored for research and scholarship

A partial listing of the many faculty honors this past spring and winter include:

- **Lincoln Excellence for Assistant Professors:** **Eduardo Ledesma** (Spanish and Portuguese); **Hong Jin** (biochemistry); **David Sarlah** (chemistry); and **Catharine Fairbairn** (psychology).
- **Sloan Research Fellowships:** **Joaquin Vieira** (astronomy); and **Jefferson Chan**, **David Sarlah**, and **Josh Vura-Weis** (all chemistry).
- **College of Fellows, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering:** **Joon Kong** (chemical and biomolecular engineering).
- **Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award:** **Helaine Silverman** (anthropology).
- **Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist Award:** **Sue Kieffer** (geology).
- **Robert McC. Netting Award:** **Trevor Birkenholtz** (geography and geographic information science).
- **Elected as American Comparative Literature Association's second vice president:** **Wa'il S. Hassan** (French and Italian).

See a complete list of faculty honored this year at las.illinois.edu/news/honors ■



Nobel Prize winner **Phillip Sharp** (PhD, '69, chemistry) visited campus in April as part of the Nelson J. Leonard Centennial Symposium. (Photo by Della Perrone Photography.) ■

Professor gives away thousands of books to high schools



"The Art of Yellowstone Science," a book by **Bruce Fouke**, professor of geology, affiliate professor of microbiology, and member of the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, and photographer

Tom Murphy, is doing so well that strong sales, along with grant support, have allowed Fouke to distribute free hardcopies of the book to select universities, colleges, community colleges, non-profit groups, and some 3,000 high schools around the world. (Photo by Tom Murphy.) ■

Illinois professor awarded ACLS fellowship



Erik McDuffie, professor of African American studies and history, is the recipient of a 2017 fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. He is one of only 71 fellows chosen from nearly 1,200 applicants. The ACLS Fellowship, which supports scholars for six to 12 months of

full-time research and writing, will support McDuffie's work on his book about historical black freedom. ■

Carle Illinois College of Medicine announces inaugural faculty



The **Carle Illinois College of Medicine** has announced nearly 100 inaugural faculty members, including 15 from the College of LAS. The list includes prominent researchers, administrators, and

medical professionals with a broad range of expertise invaluable to building the world's first engineering-based college of medicine. See a full list of chosen faculty at go.las.illinois.edu/Medicinefaculty. ■



Thirty LAS undergrads selected to Senior 100 Honorary

Thirty graduating seniors from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences have been selected to the Senior 100 Honorary for their notable achievements and commitment to the future of the university. **LAS students from 17 majors** were among 100 seniors selected from across campus for the honor, which is sponsored by the University of Illinois Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Ambassadors. See all recipients at go.las.illinois.edu/senior100. ■



The late **David Linowes**, who worked with U.S. presidents and served as a professor of political economy, public policy, and business administration at Illinois for more than two decades, would have been 100 years old this year. He is still an inspiration at the Cline Center for Democracy, which hosts the Linowes Faculty Fellows program. ■

Alumnus screens documentary at Illinois

Ryan Suffern (BA, '99, English) recently screened his new documentary, "Finding Oscar," in Lincoln Hall. "Finding Oscar," which Suffern directed and produced with Frank Marshall (with Steven Spielberg as executive producer), is the story of the epic search for a genocide survivor. The film was released nationwide. "The subject matter is indeed heavy," he said, "but it also brings with it a burden of responsibility to make sure we told the story right." (Photo courtesy of Ryan Suffern.) ■



Using the famous Human Operated Vehicle **Alvin**, known for exploring the wreck of the Titanic, geologist Patricia Gregg explored the floor of the Pacific Ocean some 3 kilometers below the surface. (©Copyright WHOI.) ■

Research has potential to dramatically increase food supplies



(L-R) **Johannes Kromdijk**, **Stephen Long**, and **Katarzyna Glowacka**.

Researchers at the U of I report that they can increase plant productivity by boosting levels of three proteins involved in photosynthesis.

Stephen Long, Gutsell Endowed Professor of Plant Biology and Crop Sciences, and postdoctoral researchers Katarzyna Glowacka and Johannes Kromdijk saw increases of 14 percent to 20 percent in the growth of their modified tobacco plants. The work confirms a hypothesis some in the scientific community once doubted was possible. ■

Symposium honors influential professor



The Department of Geography & Geographic Information Science, Social Dimensions of Environmental Policy, and the Center for African Studies held a symposium to honor **Thomas Bassett**, a professor of geography and geographic information science, who retired from Illinois last spring after more than three decades of research, teaching, and service to the university. Bassett is credited with first using the term "political ecology," a term used to define the connections between nature and society. ■

New course brings students to Washington, D.C.

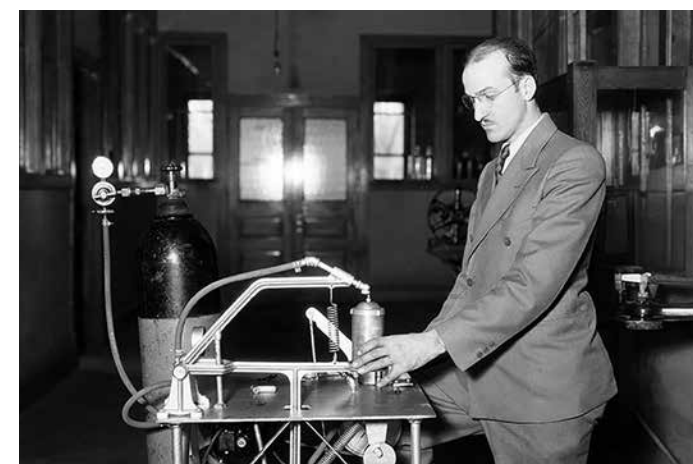


Twelve U of I students took advantage of spring break to visit Washington, D.C., for a week of site visits, career-building and networking

events with professionals – many of whom were Illini alumni. The trip, which was part of a new course called **LAS 199: Exploring Careers in Government**, featured daily treks to the heart of D.C. to meet with several U of I alumni who have professional positions in Washington. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Schoeplein.) ■



Entomology professor **Allison Hansen** and graduate student **Margaret Thairu** developed a new method for getting interfering RNA into the bodies of soybean aphids—a major crop pest in the U.S. and Canada. ■



Charles Getz demonstrates his instant whipped cream machine at Illinois in the early 1930s. Getz, a chemist, patented portable whipped cream, which proved widely successful. He was remembered during National Whipped Cream Day. ■

Two LAS alumni elected to National Academy of Engineering



Dianne Chong (BA, '71, biology) and **David Boger** (MS, '64; PhD, '66; chemical engineering) have been elected into the National Academy of Engineering, which is considered to be among the highest professional distinctions that can be obtained by an engineer. Chong was cited for advances in technologies for composites in large commercial aerospace vehicles. Boger was cited for discoveries and fundamental research on elastic and particulate fluids and their application to waste minimization. ■

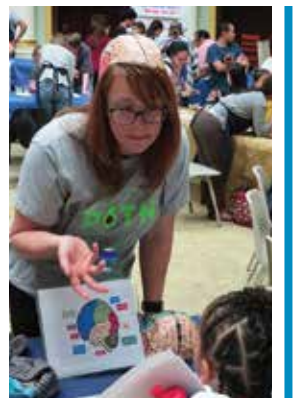
History professor edits website honoring Latino baseball



History professor **Adrian Burgos Jr.** is editor-in-chief of a new online platform launched by the National Baseball Hall of Fame to celebrate Latino baseball. The site, La Vida Baseball (www.lavidabaseball.com), was created "to showcase the passion, purpose and spirit that drive the stories of Latinos and baseball," Burgos said. ■

An expo of the mind

The Neuroscience Program at Illinois recently hosted **Brain Awareness Day**, an outreach event for kids to spark enthusiasm for science. The day-long event in Champaign's Orpheum Children's Museum featured interactive exhibits and informative booths to teach about the neuroscience of creatures across the world. The event, now in its 10th year, attracted more than 430 people. ■





Jessie Shelton, professor of physics, spoke to a crowd at Pizza M in Urbana during an **Astronomy on Tap** event. The outreach event, hosted by the Department of Astronomy, is now more than a year old, and it regularly draws large, curious crowds. (Photo courtesy of Joaquin Vieira.) ■

Twelve from LAS receive high profile graduate research awards



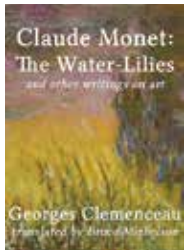
Twelve students from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences have been offered Graduate Research Fellowships from the **National Science Foundation**. The program supports students pursuing research-oriented master's and PhD degrees in science, technology, social science, engineering, and mathematics fields.

It aims to strengthen the nation's scientific workforce. See a complete list of recipients at go.las.illinois.edu/NSFstudentawards. ■



The mystery of a missing river in Canada was termed "river piracy" by a research team including **Jim Best**, the Jack and Richard Threet Professor of Sedimentary Geology and professor of geography and geographic information science at Illinois, who attributed the disappearance to climate change. (Photo courtesy of Jim Best.) ■

Illinois launches open-access digital publishing network



The University of Illinois Library has launched a digital publishing initiative, the **Illinois Open Publishing Network**, with its first work—a new English translation of a memoir of Claude Monet. The publishing network is a network of open-access scholarly publications and publishing infrastructure and resources. It is the result of the first year and a half of a research initiative, Publishing Without Walls, funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. ■

Student invited to Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting



Chemical and biomolecular engineering graduate student **Thao Ngo** participated in the 67th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting last summer in Germany. Ngo was the only awardee from Illinois to be invited to the conference, where she also represented the United States. The meeting, featuring a mix of Nobel Laureates and student researchers, aims to foster exchange among scientists of different generations, cultures, and disciplines. ■



Conner Weber, a student at Illinois, unloads boxes for a food drive inspired in part by a history class on the Great Depression. (Photo courtesy of Leslie Reagan.) ■

LAS alumna to be inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame



The late **Allene Rosalind Jeanes** (PhD, '38, chemistry) was inducted this year into The National Inventors Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. She was honored for, in part, creating a blood plasma extender used by medics in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Jeanes, who spent her career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was also on the research team that developed xanthan gum, a food thickening agent. (Photo courtesy of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.) ■



Illinois sophomore **Emily Alameda** does the Crossing the River activity with a local youngster at the Riddle Mania during this spring's **Math Carnival: Gathering for Gardner** at Altgeld Hall. (Photo by Elizabeth Innes.) ■



Sean Chou (BS, '95, psychology), center, who built a company, Fieldglass, after graduating from Illinois, speaks with students participating in the **iVenture Accelerator program**. iVenture, intended to help students launch startup enterprises, is attracting a growing number of LAS students. (Image courtesy of iVenture.) ■

Researcher named J. Woodland Hastings Endowed Chair in Biochemistry



Emad Tajkhorshid, a prominent professor of biochemistry, biophysics, and computational biology has been named the J. Woodland Hastings Endowed Chair in Biochemistry. An investiture is one of the highest honors that a faculty member can receive. Named for the late John Woodland "Woody" Hastings (1927-2014), the chair was set up by donor Tamara T. Mitchell and her late husband, George (MA, '66, chemistry). ■

Kurt Bloomstrand, center, poses with members of Illini EMS, which he assists in responding to emergencies in east central Illinois. (Photos courtesy of Kurt Bloomstrand.)



DOCTOR IN MOTION

LAS alumnus has a different take on emergency medicine: He brings the emergency room to the patient

By Logan Weeter

While emergency medical care is more advanced than ever, advanced treatment still hinges on victims being transported to a hospital. However, an LAS alumnus is leading a program that takes a new approach: He's basically bringing the emergency room to the patient.

Kurt Bloomstrand (BS, '09, molecular and cellular biology; MD, '13) is medical director of Presence Health Regional Emergency Medical Services. He saves lives behind the wheel of Presence Health's Physician Response Vehicle that operates in the Champaign, Urbana, and Danville, Illinois, areas.

Better equipped than a usual paramedic team, Bloomstrand's Physician Response Vehicle is outfitted with everything your typical ambulance has, plus additional lifesaving tools and medications that he can administer as a physician.

In addition to responding to major emergencies from behind the wheel of the Physician Response Vehicle, Bloomstrand also oversees all of the Presence EMS medical care that is provided in his region, including 65 agencies throughout seven counties around Champaign County. Bloomstrand ensures that these

agencies have the tools and the education that they need to provide high-quality patient care, as well as by ensuring that patient care is up to proper standards.

This isn't Bloomstrand's first time working with Presence Health; during his undergrad days here at U of I, he worked as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for Presence Pro Ambulance. Having received his EMT license in high school, Bloomstrand has spent most of his life building on his emergency medical skills.

Bloomstrand said that his job is one of his passions, and he finds it to be one of instant and constant gratification.

"That's why I got into emergency medicine," Bloomstrand said, "because you truly have the opportunity to make a difference in somebody's life immediately, when you're needed most. That's the most exciting part, and as cliché as it sounds, helping people is what really gives me the motivation to keep doing this." ■



Presence Health's Physician Response Vehicle.



Books from LAS

LAS faculty have recently edited and written books on a variety of topics, from sustainability to the portrayal of men on screen.

"Global Perspectives on the United States: Pro-Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and the Discourses Between," edited by anthropology professors **Virginia Dominguez** and **Jane Desmond**, presents essays that capture the immense complexity behind foreign sentiment about the United States. (Image courtesy of University of Illinois Press.)



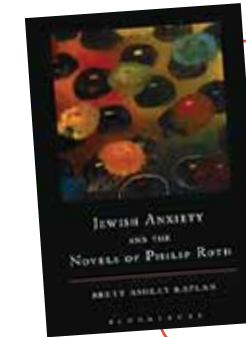
"The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921," by **Mark Steinberg**, professor of history, tells the story of that time period with a focus on "people thinking and feeling about history as it unfolded in their own lives." (Image courtesy of Oxford University Press.)



"Imagining Sustainability: Creative urban environmental governance in Chicago and Melbourne," by **Julie Cidell**, professor of geography and geographic information science, seeks to understand how individuals engaged in local government conceptualize and practice sustainability. (Image courtesy of Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.)



"Jewish Anxiety and the Novels of Philip Roth," by **Brett Ashley Kaplan**, professor in comparative literature and director of the Program in Jewish Culture & Society, examines Roth's novels in a new way that focuses on the myriad forms of Jewish anxiety manifest therein. (Image courtesy of Bloomsbury Publishing.)



"The Conceptual Foundations of Transitional Justice," by **Colleen Murphy**, professor of philosophy and law, analyzes the transition from conflict or repression to democracy, and outlines the ethical standards societies attempting to democratize should follow. (Image courtesy of Cambridge University Press.)



"Sepharad as Imagined Community: Language, History and Religion from the Early Modern Period to the 21st Century," edited by **Mahir Şaul**, professor of anthropology, and **José Ignacio Hualde**, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, enriches the emerging field of Sephardic studies. (Image courtesy of Peter Lang Publishing Group.)



Professor of comparative and world literature **Robert Rushing** won the Film and Media Studies book prize from the American Association for Italian Studies for his new book, "**Descended from Hercules: Biopolitics and the Muscled Male Body on Screen.**" (Image courtesy of Indiana University Press.) ■





LAS
@Work

WRITING THE FIRST DRAFTS OF WAR

DEGREES IN RUSSIAN AND RHETORIC HELP SHAPE THE CAREER OF A COMBAT REPORTER

FOR CHAD GARLAND, reporting on the war against ISIS in Iraq requires body armor, bravery, and not a small amount of wits and wisdom—much of which he credits to his days at Illinois.

Job title: Downrange reporter/photographer for Stars and Stripes, a U.S. Department of Defense-authorized newspaper for the U.S. military community.

Degree: BA, '11, Russian language and literature and English (rhetoric/creative writing)

What's a typical workday for you?

I'm a war correspondent mostly covering Iraq and Afghanistan. Right now (editor's note: Garland did this interview in March 2017) I'm covering the battle to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group. That might mean donning a helmet and body armor to go along with the Iraqi military and tour areas they've retaken (barely, in some cases), visiting an underground ISIS training camp, visiting a camp for families fleeing the violence, or going to an American military base. I think it's cool that I'm writing "the first draft of history."

What about college best prepared you for your life and career?

I was able to take classes that challenged me and exposed me to new ideas. I enjoyed creative writing classes, but in particular I liked (senior lecturer of English) Julie Price's nonfiction writing class, which is when I knew I wanted to do that for a living.

How did your major prepare you for your career?

Learning about language, literature, and writing was major preparation for a career in writing. Even though Russian in particular is less useful in the Middle East than Arabic would have been, I have had a few opportunities to use the language. Some Afghans trained by the Soviets during the occupation there in the 1980s still speak Russian. Employers have been impressed that I speak a foreign language. It shows them you're a well-rounded person with a variety of interests and skills.

What's your proudest achievement?

I'm proudest I went to college at 30. I had a few circumstances (including the GI Bill from my service in the Marines) that made college and a career change an easier choice, but it was still a risk. ■



Follow Chad
on Twitter
(@chadgarland)

Read more LAS@Work features at
go.las.illinois.edu/LASatWork.

Four professors in LAS elected to NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Selection is one of the HIGHEST HONORS for scientists

Four professors in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest professional honors a scientist can receive.

John Cronan, Jeffrey Moore, Donald Ort, and Gary Parker are among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates announced earlier this year.

"We couldn't be more proud of the newest members of the National Academy of Sciences from our college," said **Feng Sheng Hu**, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of LAS. "This confirms what we've known all along—that these individuals are leading researchers in their fields, and that their departments and the College of LAS are excellent settings for the advancement of science."

Robert J. Jones, the chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus, said the announcement was cause for celebration across the entire campus.

"This is one of our nation's highest honors for scientific achievement, and we are proud to see four more of our distinguished faculty taking their places in this prestigious institution," Jones said.

John Cronan is a professor and head of microbiology and a professor of biochemistry. His research areas include biofuels, enzymology, genetics, membrane biology, microbial physiology and regulation of gene expression.

Jeffrey Moore is the Murchison-Mallory

Professor of Chemistry, a professor of materials science and engineering, and director of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. Moore and his group examine ideas from physical organic chemistry and engineering with polymer synthesis to invent mechanically responsive materials.

Donald Ort is the Robert Emerson Professor of Plant Biology, a United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service Photosynthesis Research Unit physiologist and adjunct professor of crop sciences. His research focuses on the growth and photosynthetic performance of plants that are frequently diminished by commonly occurring environmental conditions, such as low temperatures and drought.

Gary Parker is the W.H. Johnson Professor of Geology and a professor of civil and environmental engineering. Parker's research interests in geology focus on sediment transport, morphodynamics of alluvial and bedrock rivers, and submarine sediment processes such as turbidity currents.

Founded in 1863, the National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. ■

By Lois E. Yoksoulian, Illinois News Bureau



John Cronan



Jeffrey Moore



Donald Ort



Gary Parker

Renovating an icon

ALTGELD CHIMES FALL SILENT

By Dave Evensen



You don't have to be a student of architecture to see that there's something different about Altgeld Hall.

Maybe it's the Romanesque façade of dark, roughly hewn Minnesota sandstone, or its striking—and sometimes unsettling—artistic features, such as a savage gargoyle over a small door on the west side of the building. Maybe it's the tower, looming more than 130 feet over the sidewalks.

Of course, Altgeld's most resonating trait has nothing to do with the 120 year-old building's physical appearance. The chimes of Altgeld have marked time and provided music to the Quad for almost a century. They're beautiful, constant, reliable, and—in tandem with Altgeld's solid-looking exterior—perhaps one of the reasons it's easy to overlook this: It's been 60 years since the building was renovated.

Campus officials are planning a \$90-\$100 million renovation of Altgeld and the nearby Illini Hall, which serve together as home to the departments of mathematics and statistics. The renovation is a necessity because of their age and also their capacity. Student enrollment in the departments' courses has grown by 50 percent in the last decade; the number of mathematics and statistics majors has doubled.

Plans call for 22,000 square feet of new or modernized classroom space and 11,000 square feet of space for growth in the departments, increasing floor space by 25 percent.

Matt Ando, associate dean of physical, biological, and mathematical sciences with the College of LAS who also served as chair of the Department of Mathematics for six years, said that each year more than 40 percent of Illinois undergraduates take a mathematics or statistics course.

"The two departments play a critical role in enabling research across a large and growing number of fields, including biology, engineering, medicine, and physics," Ando said. "The renovation of Altgeld and Illini Halls will unleash tremendous potential in these two great departments, creating opportunities for collaborative learning and research that will benefit thousands of students and enhance research across the college and the university."

The renovation of Altgeld is more than a practical matter, however. It's also a symbolic one. The chimes of Altgeld fell silent earlier this year—aside from automated time-keeping sequences—as the tower was closed for repairs for an undetermined amount of time.

Ironically, however, the day the music stopped served as a clear signal that Altgeld needed help.

"The condition of the chimes is a little bit of a canary in a coal mine," Ando told the News-Gazette. "That particular area is in

The chimesmaster

Sue Wood retires after 45 years in Altgeld

For Sue Wood, a career spent playing the Altgeld Hall chimes was what she calls "a system of anonymity."

"I always jokingly say, 'Nobody knows who's up there anyway,'" Wood said. "Many people will come to the door and see someone playing and say, 'Oh, I thought those were all automatic.'"

While many listeners might not have been aware of the musician behind the bells, Wood spent 45 years in Altgeld conducting midday concerts before retiring as chimesmaster in fall 2016.

For decades, she and her students hid away at the base of Altgeld Hall's bell tower to produce tunes ranging from "The Ash Grove" to "Alma Mater" to "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga. She and her students collaborated on more than 2,000 different songs over the years, and Wood played and taught the art without ever receiving any kind of compensation. Why?

"For the love of music, of course," she said.

Wood, 83, began playing chimes prior to her time at Altgeld when she played the 25-bell carillon at the University Lutheran Church in Champaign. She started playing at Altgeld in 1971 as a graduate student under the guidance of Chimesmaster Albert Marien. She quickly became associate chimesmaster, and she became chimesmaster in 1995.

While Wood conducted most concerts during the noon hour on weekdays, she also held performances for special events, such as commencement, Quad Day, and even weddings.

Though the bells are currently inactive, Wood has a bright outlook.

"We know what's coming certainly will be an improvement," she said. "We know what's going on and see the promises for the future—we just sort of take it in stride."

She is fondly remembered by the many people she ushered in to become chimes players.

"There is a magic about Sue Wood. She just has an enthusiasm that has not waned one single bit for 45 years," said Cope Cumpston. "She made it possible for many people to have access to a really magical experience."

For an oral history video of the chimes, see go.las.illinois.edu/chimesplayers. ■

By Samantha Jones Toal



Sue Wood playing the Altgeld Hall chimes.
(Photo courtesy of the Department of Mathematics.)

particularly bad shape, but the whole building hasn't been renovated since the 1950s, and it's showing wear and tear everywhere."

A symbol of strength and equality

Historically speaking, the condition of Altgeld is symbolic for the entire campus, not just mathematics and statistics. Remarkable as Altgeld is today, it was even more remarkable when it opened in 1897. That was when the University of Illinois was just 30 years old, and its great reputation was not yet established.



John Altgeld
(Photo courtesy of
Clarence Darrow Digital
Collection at University
of Minnesota.)

Campus leaders wanted to distinguish the university as a select institution of higher learning, and Altgeld was where they chose to make their point. Then-Gov. **John Altgeld**, who was raised by poor, illiterate German immigrants before working his way out of poverty to study law, believed strongly that a state university could provide everyone with an education normally afforded only to the wealthy.

He fought fiercely for state funding to the U of I in the late 1800s, including an appropriation of \$150,000 to build Altgeld Hall (which would be named in his honor some 40 years after his death). He drew a connection between the building's designs and the university's greater purpose.

"We want an institution that shall be thoroughly modern in spirit and effort, and from those halls shall go forth men and women of such strong moral fiber, such industry and such fervor of soul, that they will lead our people on to loftier planes and greater glory," he once said.

Professors of architecture Nathan Ricker and James White—who between them designed several campus buildings, including Lincoln Hall and the Natural History Building—worked with students and graduates of the Department of Architecture to produce a design that was acceptable to all.

A 1969 study of Altgeld by Muriel Scheinman (MA, '69; PhD, '81; art history), who was earning her master's degree in art history at the time, noted influences on Altgeld from all over the world, from the Berlin Royal Polytechnikum and St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice to the Albany (New York) City Hall.

"We, who have watched the building, from day to day, from beginning to end, take pleasure in assuring our friends that it is thoroughly built, that it is just as solid and substantial as it looks," said James White, during the building's dedication in June 1897. "The State has received a full equivalent for every dollar put into it."

The next renovation

Private and corporate support is needed to secure the future of Altgeld and Illini Halls, but a feasibility study is complete and the renovation is slated to begin in the next few years. Workers will take care to preserve both buildings' architectural heritage, as Altgeld has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1970.

This means that, in addition to renovating and adding modernized classroom space, intricate floor mosaics, murals, paintings, and woodwork in Altgeld will be restored. The Mathematics Library will have its distinctive, glass-panel flooring also restored.

Bringing back the music

Work is progressing to reopen Altgeld Tower

After keeping time and providing music to the Quad for the better part of a century, Altgeld Tower was closed for repairs in March. Aside from an automated time-keeping function, the chimes have been silent since spring.

While the reopening date has not yet been determined, construction is progressing to bring the tower to safety and accessibility standards.

The flooring in the room where the chimes are operated has been leveled and repaired, walls have been painted, and damaged furniture has been replaced. The room housing the automated time-keeping mechanism for the chimes has also been refreshed.

Additionally, workers have refinished chimes playing and practice stands. Playing handles have been painted and note identifiers have been applied and polished. Some new pieces were fabricated, and new pads were installed.

The university has also identified a firm to work on restoring the bells, cables, and the supporting frame for the bells. That work is expected to last four to six months. Meanwhile, engineers are assessing the building for any necessary repairs to masonry and reinforcing structures.

The work on Altgeld Tower is an extension of the larger project to update Altgeld and Illini Halls. The cost is in addition to the estimated \$90 to \$100 million required to renovate the rest of the two buildings.

This is not the first time the chimes have been silenced for repairs. According to former chimesmaster Suzanne Wood, the tower was closed for a period of time in the 1950s to repair cables and other mechanisms. ■



Workers refinished chimes instruments as part of the effort to reopen Altgeld Tower.

Heating and air conditioning will be replaced throughout the building to increase energy efficiency, improve classroom environments, and protect collections in the Mathematics Library. A second elevator will be added to make all of Altgeld accessible. And the building's dark exterior will be cleaned to bring back the original color of the pink sandstone.

"A renovated Altgeld Hall is a magnificent vision. Moreover, with support from friends of the university, it is absolutely attainable," said Feng Sheng Hu, Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of LAS. "We want to fully embrace the historic significance of this great building, while also creating a 21st-century academic environment that benefits the entire campus." ■

How to support the project:

See altgeldillini.illinois.edu/project-details/



The renovation of Chemistry Annex included reconfiguration of instructional laboratories.

Chemistry Annex reopens after renovation

Rededication is planned for Oct. 6

Years in the making, the Chemistry Annex renovations are complete.

The ambitious project included a complete renovation and construction of a 9,600-square-foot addition to the building's southeast corner. All told, the addition and renovation provide 52,000 square feet of state-of-the-art laboratory and instructional space for more modern teaching styles.

"The driving force in the remodeling process was the labs, and making sure we had state-of-the-art labs where students could learn chemistry," said **Christian Ray**, director of general chemistry.

The \$21.4 million renovation provides transformative learning spaces for future education and research. The Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment,

which comes from a \$300-per-semester student fee, and institutional funds—composed primarily of money set aside from federal grants for overhead costs—have been instrumental to the success of the project. Private donations were also used for other upgrades.

The building reopened last spring semester. The renovation included complete remodeling and reassignment of existing spaces. The main general purpose auditorium was completely renovated and includes state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. Dow Chemical provided funding for the auditorium.

The Chemistry Learning Center was renovated to promote adaptability and a variety of furniture settings to promote individual study, one-on-one tutoring,

and small and/or large group study and instruction. The building now features eight, 12 and 24-person conference rooms.

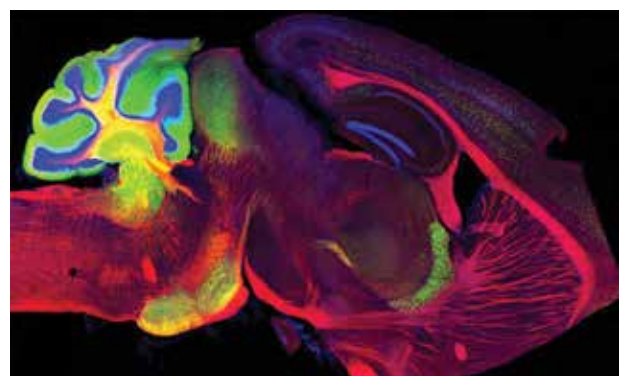
Undergraduate instructional labs were completely renovated, and the addition includes a new main entrance, a new elevator, and American with Disabilities Act access at both street level from Mathews Avenue and the Quad side. ■

By *Mary Jo Hettinger*

A rededication ceremony for Chemistry Annex is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6. Details: scs.illinois.edu/scs150.

Images of RESEARCH

Students, faculty, and staff in the College of LAS aren't just good at conducting research—they're also skilled at expressing it with imagery. Here are some recent prize-winners from image of research contests on campus.



1. **Endangered Wild Dogs**, by Alexandra Harmon-Threatt, professor of entomology, first place, "Nature" category, World of Biology Photo Competition.

2. **A Clear Mind**, by Chris Seward, undergraduate student, cell and developmental biology, second place, for this enhanced image of a mouse brain in the 2017 Image of Research Competition.

3. **BASE Jumping**, by K. Denise Kendall, laboratory coordinator, School of Integrative Biology, third place, "Nature" category, World of Biology Photo Competition.

4. **Storm front, take a break**, By Darshi Banan, graduate student, plant biology, first place, "Biologists at Work" category, World of Biology Photo Competition.

5. **Colorful Emotion**, by Andrew Tran, undergraduate student, integrative biology and chemistry, second place, for this image of a two-day old octopus in the 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium photo contest. ■



THE CHALLENGES

of

COMING HOME

Professor seeks to help military families adjust to life after deployment

You've seen the heartwarming images of U.S. military service members returning home from overseas deployments—military personnel in uniform emerging unexpectedly from the crowd at youth baseball games, the joyful airport reunions, and all the hugs and tears that ensue. But what happens in the aftermath? How do military families communicate during the potentially challenging transition to a new normal?

Leanne Knobloch, professor of communication, studies the transition from deployment to reunion, and how military couples and their families interact during this key juncture in their lives.

Her current project is funded by the U.S. Military Operational Medicine Research Program, which awards grants to support scientific research designed to improve the health of service members and their families. Knobloch and her team are studying 500 returning service members and at-home partners who are making the transition from deployment to reunion.

"The goal of our project is to identify how people's mental health symptoms and relationship characteristics predict their well-being during the post-deployment transition," Knobloch said.

Knobloch describes reintegration after deployment as an exciting time for military couples and families, but it can be challenging for

people to adjust to living together again after months apart.

"The news clips and social media posts show the exuberant first moments of homecoming, but those images are not a realistic portrayal of what military couples face," Knobloch said. "Personalities shift, children grow, neighborhoods change.

Acclimating to all of these changes is difficult—even for military families who are thrilled to be together again."

Her research is designed to understand how this transition unfolds, with the ultimate goal of helping returning service members, at-home partners, and children communicate more effectively upon reunion. The project is geared toward identifying guidelines to assist military families.

"We're hoping this project will benefit the men, women, and children who so generously serve our country every day," Knobloch said. ■

By Logan Weeter



Leanne Knobloch



TACKLING SPORTS CONCUSSIONS

Alumna protects the brains of athletes from youth leagues to the Chicago Blackhawks



Elizabeth Pieroth is the first to point out that she is not gifted athletically. Growing up, her family nicknamed her “Grace” because of her lack of that quality in sports. But when it comes to protecting an athlete’s most important body part—the head—this LAS alumna is the go-to person for many athletic programs

around the country, including major professional teams.

Today, Pieroth is the concussion specialist for the Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago Bears, Chicago White Sox, and the Chicago Fire soccer team. She is also a board-certified neuropsychologist and associate director of the sports concussion program in the NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Although not an athlete herself, she said she always loved sports growing up in Chicago Ridge, Illinois.

“It’s hard to live around Chicago and not love sports,” said Pieroth, who was one of the recipients of the 2016 LAS Alumni Achievement Award.

Pieroth received her bachelor’s in psychology from U of I in 1988. But she didn’t receive her first exposure to sports-related concussions until getting her doctor of psychology degree at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. During her residency at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and Care Network in Chicago, she worked on the brain injury unit, where most of her patients had brain injuries that were even more severe than concussions.

Her residency was followed by a fellowship at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, where her supervisor, Mark Lovell, was a concussion specialist. She arrived at the hospital in 1997, which also happened to be the first year of the National Hockey League’s concussion program.

Through Lovell, she started doing work with the Detroit Red Wings, administering a baseline cognitive test to every single player on the hockey team. According to Pieroth, the NHL was way ahead of its time in 1997 because the issue of concussions wasn’t the headline-grabber it is today.

“In 1997, it was the opposite of today,” she said. “We were begging people to pay attention to athletes’ heads. But many people said we’re making something out of nothing.”

After her fellowship in Detroit, Pieroth returned to the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, where she began to see more and more concussion patients because not many doctors at the time did this kind of work. Soon, concussion patients became such a big part of her job that she went into private practice and worked primarily with concussions.

In 2004, she became the concussion specialist for the Chicago Bears, followed by the Blackhawks in 2005, and the White Sox and Fire in 2011. She also consults with many high school and small college athletics programs, and she served as the concussion specialist for Northwestern University from 2010 to 2014. (Good news: She remained an Illini fan during her Northwestern years.)

In 2012, she left her private practice to join NorthShore, where she now sees patients throughout the Chicago area.

“But the part I’m most passionate about is education,” she said.

A concussion is a brain injury that occurs at the cellular level, Pieroth explains. No definitive test can determine whether a person has a concussion or not, so doctors rely on symptoms. The most common symptom is a headache, with about 85 percent of concussed people reporting one.

However, she cautions that people often get headaches when they hit their head, even if it’s not a concussion. Therefore, Pieroth looks

for other symptoms, such as dizziness, fatigue, and mental foginess. Some patients also have nausea or sensitivity to light and noise.

Concussion awareness is so high today that she often has to calm the fears of parents who might be waking their child every half hour during the night. She said if parents are going to do that, they might as well take the child to the emergency room and have a CT scan done to rule out a more severe injury. The reason for keeping someone awake is so that a person with a more severe head injury is awake to feel the symptoms, such as bleeding on the brain.

Pieroth’s educational efforts debunk the most common myths about concussions, such as that they always lead to unconsciousness (only about 10 percent do), and that patients must have complete cognitive rest.

“Patients who are told to do nothing usually show an increase in symptoms because they just sit around and think about their symptoms,” she said. “Research has shown that prolonged rest is not curative, and encouraging the appropriate return to both physical and cognitive activity aids recovery.”

The idea that you need to stay in a dark room and avoid all television and computers doesn’t make sense because you can’t turn off your brain, she pointed out. Even when you’re asleep, your brain is active.

Pieroth also does not advise that athletic programs establish an inflexible “three concussions and you’re out” rule. The effects of concussions are individualized. Sometimes, she advises a patient to give up a sport after two concussions, and other times it might be four. By setting an arbitrary rule like three, athletes may feel pressure to hide their injuries and not report a possible concussion.

Pieroth teaches these lessons for the Heads Up program, a health and safety program sponsored by the USA Football Advisory

Committee. She also serves on the U.S. Soccer Concussion Task Force and supported its recent recommendation of no heading of the ball in practice for players under 10 years old and limited heading for ages 10 to 14.

Pieroth is especially proud about creating “A Step aHead,” a joint education program with the Chicago Blackhawks, Athletico, the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, and NorthShore. This program, which recently won the Excellence in Safety Award from USA Hockey, offers baseline neurocognitive testing to hockey players. It also emphasizes education on many topics, including safe checking, equipment safety, and more.

In the meantime, her two boys continue to play many sports—including hockey and football—because she said the fear of concussions should not keep any child from being active.

“We have an obesity problem in this country, and we need kids to be physically active,” she said. ■

By Doug Peterson



Elizabeth Pieroth and her husband, Jeff Wilson, and boys, Michael, left, and Sean, pose with the Stanley Cup. Pieroth is concussion specialist for the Chicago Blackhawks and several other professional sports teams. (Image courtesy of Elizabeth Pieroth.)

A meeting of the minds

Traditionally separate, scholars and scientists increasingly explore the possibilities at the intersection of **humanities and STEM**

Until recently, **Samantha Frost** knew nothing of the complex interactions happening at the molecular level that influence human behavior. But that all changed in 2010 when the professor of political science and gender and women's studies ventured beyond her study of 17th-century philosophy to explore ideas in epigenetic research, joining others who are delving into the fascinating possibilities at the intersection of humanities and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

She's far from alone. Across campus, students, faculty and researchers are plumbing the depths of this intersection, whether they're immersing themselves in new fields or borrowing tools from one to enhance the other.

There's **Ted Underwood**, professor of English and information sciences, who's unleashing the power of big data to explore intellectual shifts in 18th-century literature, as well as **Jodi Byrd**, a professor of English and gender and women's studies, who's using video games to help students explore concepts such as indigenous critical theory. Later this fall, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and the Coordinated Science Laboratory will host a multi-day event called Speculative Futures. It will introduce writers and artists to innovations in technology that could one day play a role in the new worlds they imagine.

For Frost, exploring a different

discipline allowed her to rethink what it means to be human. As a political theorist, she had studied Thomas Hobbes, an English philosopher who held that



ANTOINETTE BURTON

everything was matter in motion. Now, she was peering deep inside that matter, studying the inner workings of the human cell and encountering big ideas in a microscopic world.



MARTIN CAMARGO

"It turns out that the greatest fear of people in the humanities, which is that the biological body is sort of stable and fixed, is just not the case," said Frost. "When you encounter provocation in the environment, your body is responding. If it's stressful in some way, there are particular hormones that will circulate through your system."



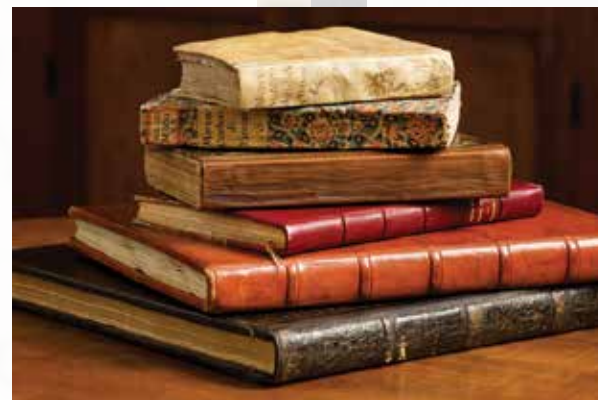
SAMANTHA FROST

These hormones eventually enter the cell, creating epigenetic tags that impact the production of proteins controlling everything from motion to thought. This means social interactions can literally

become embodied in a physiological form, changing the way in which we engage the world.

"I already had known that the way we think about the body is central to the way we imagine what a person is and how society works," said Frost. "But having discovered that the body is plastic and changeable has made me realize just how many assumptions that we have about ourselves in the world that rely on the idea that the body is stable. It really transforms everything."

Frost was able to pursue her new field of study thanks to the New Directions Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which enables tenured faculty to train in secondary fields. Now, she's part of an emerging group of researchers and academics developing the field of biohumanities, examining how findings in the life sciences can generate new forms of



self-understanding.

One of the things driving this new breed of interdisciplinary researchers is the need to address large challenges like global climate change, according to **Antoinette Burton**, professor of history and director of Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

"I think there's a recognition that every possible form of expertise needs to be brought to bear on these questions, some of which require applied solutions, and all of which

are attached to questions of meaning and significance," she said. Humanists can help provide that meaning, Burton said, but at the same time humanists need better literacy in science so they can engage with a full range of colleagues.

Bridging that gap can be a challenge, as Frost learned when she hosted a workshop that brought life scientists, social scientists,

and humanists together.

"It took us two whole days just to be able to get to a point where we were almost talking about the same thing," she said. Now, Frost is using that experience to write a paper that will help others working on future projects understand where they might get stuck and how they can work around those issues.

Communication isn't the only challenge at the intersection of humanities and STEM, said **Martin Camargo**, associate dean for humanities and interdisciplinary programs in the College of LAS.

"There's the philosophical divide that's long-standing in western civilization in particular, but there are also institutional obstacles," Camargo said. One way the university is working to overcome that is through the Grand Challenges initiative, which helps undergrads connect their general education requirements with larger themes, including health and wellness, and sustainability and the environment.

"Scientists, humanists, and social scientists are all teaching together in this course," he explained. "So that's an example of a structure that's set up to enable specialists in a wide spectrum of disciplines to talk with each other and engage students."

At the new Carle Illinois College of Medicine, **King Li**, dean and chief academic officer, is working to make medical humanities one of the pillars of

the new school's advanced curriculum.

"Health care is as much a caring business as it is a scientifically driven enterprise," said Li. As leader of the first engineering-focused medical college, he said it's critical to understand how factors like history, religion, and culture can impact treatments and improve how doctors connect with their patients.

Currently, the Carle Illinois College of Medicine is collaborating with the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and faculty from across the campus to create a curriculum that explores all of these issues.

In the end, the divide between STEM and the humanities may not really be that wide.

"People in the philosophy department see the origins of computers in their discipline," said Camargo. "That's why they're creating a computer sciences plus philosophy major. They don't think of that as an artificial yoking; they think of that as quite natural."

Camargo is very excited about all of these collaborations and the valuable insights they could generate.

"We are connected," he said. "These are two major categories of human knowledge that will operate better if they incorporate each other." ■

By John Turner

Taking a stand for the LIBERAL ARTS

John Milton Gregory's views on a university education still resonate today

When **John Milton Gregory** became the first regent of the University of Illinois—then called Illinois Industrial University—in 1867, higher education was at a crossroads. The Civil War had just ended, and with it came an economic downturn accompanied by strong sentiment against certain aspects of a university education.



John Milton Gregory

According to Harry Kersey, author of “John Milton Gregory and the University of Illinois,” educational practices in the arts and humanities were seen as symbolic of “social aloofness” and “intellectual snobbery.” “Classical and theological studies were equated with position and privilege, both of which were anathema to the democratic spirit of that semi-frontier state,” Kersey said.

In that climate, and with the university made possible by the Morrill Act of 1862, signed by Abraham Lincoln, the purpose of Illinois’s new land-grant university quickly became controversial. Many at the time felt the university should be devoted exclusively to training students in agriculture and industrial education.

But for John Milton Gregory, who attended a liberal arts college and believed in well-rounded teachings, agricultural and industrial growth could not succeed without the addition of science and humanities. As Gregory addressed the first 68 young men to enroll at the university, he vowed that Illinois would serve the industrial interests of the state—and more.

A true supporter of an agricultural and industrial education, Gregory nonetheless declared that the new institution would not

“send forth men who were puffed up by some little smattering of science, but clear-headed, broad-breasted scholars, men of fully developed minds.”

“Let us demonstrate that the highest culture is compatible with the active pursuit of industry,” Gregory said.

Incorporating a liberal arts education at the university was no easy task. Gregory’s desire to teach the liberal arts alongside these fields was fiercely debated, with many citizens demanding the university avoid a “theoretical education.”

“By the terms of the law which called it into being, (the university) is designed to promote knowledge of the sciences relating to agriculture and the mechanic arts,” read a newspaper prior to the university’s opening. “The age of dogmatism is giving away to a better era.”

Others felt that the institution should provide students the skills to match the climate of the nation.

“Essentially [the country needs] the services of men trained in the mechanic arts which most intimately relate to the everyday concerns of life,” a newspaper declared.

As the debate intensified, Gregory was publicly attacked for his desire to teach the classics. He was also ridiculed for his background in religion. However, his experiences were essential to who he was. Gregory attended Union College, a liberal arts college in New York, where he studied law. However, he soon embarked to the Midwest to serve as a Baptist preacher.

However, this vocation didn’t last. After reaching the Midwest, Gregory pursued his true passion: education.

Gregory was elected Michigan’s superintendent of public instruction in 1858 and founded the Michigan Journal of Education. He served as president of Kalamazoo College from 1864 to 1867, and he also wrote a well-known book on education, titled “The Seven Laws of Teaching,” which emphasized the

necessity of philosophical thinking in education.

Gregory gained enough valuable experience in the field of education to earn him the spot of first regent at Illinois 150 years ago. However, when his campaign for the liberal arts became apparent, many ignored his educational background and instead focused on his brief career as a preacher.

Jonathan Baldwin Turner, a prominent proponent of the Land Grant Act within Illinois, was one of the many who did just this. This was significant, as reportedly Turner himself encouraged Abraham Lincoln to sign the Morrill Act.

“O Lord,” Turner said in an address. “How long, how long, how long, an ex-superintendent of public instruction and a Baptist preacher. What could be worse?”

However, Gregory’s support for the liberal arts at the university never wavered, and he gained allies. Aside from advocating for the liberal arts, Gregory also lived them. Along with many industrial and agricultural courses, Gregory taught philosophy at the university, as well as political economy, according to an obituary written in the Champaign Daily News in 1898.

Gregory’s confidence in the liberal arts was shown not only in his own pursuits and teachings, but also among the university as a whole.

In the 1867 course catalogue, a list of 19 courses to be taught were laid out plainly, including “English Language and Literature,” “Modern Languages,” “Ancient Languages,” “History and Social Science,” and “Mental and Moral Philosophy.”

The same catalogue began with text that clearly defined

the purpose of the university:

“The chief aim of the university is, ‘the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes, in the several pursuits and professions of life;’ And in order to this end, the university is ‘to teach such branches of learning as are related to agricultural and the mechanic arts, without excluding other scientific and classical studies,’” it read.

With this, Gregory asserted the right of the university to provide a complete education to its students. His views became accepted, as he served as regent and president from 1867 until his resignation in 1880. During his tenure he also cast the deciding vote to admit women to Illinois.

“By the educated I mean not those whose minds have been filled by an unwieldy undigested knowledge of books,” Gregory said, during his term, “but those who, whether they have studied one book or one hundred, have been trained to think for themselves, and to exercise all the facilities of their minds.” ■

By Samantha Jones Toal



John Milton Gregory is buried on campus at the University of Illinois south of Altgeld Hall.



Illinois Industrial University - Chemical Laboratory (later named Harker Hall) circa 1878-80.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT WITHIN LAS

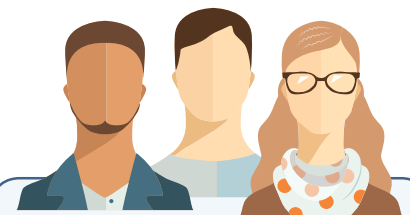
Students across the College of LAS benefit from a wide range of scholarship support. For many recipients, scholarships are critical to their ability to attend Illinois.

781 NUMBER OF LAS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS receiving a SCHOLARSHIP



\$1.5M

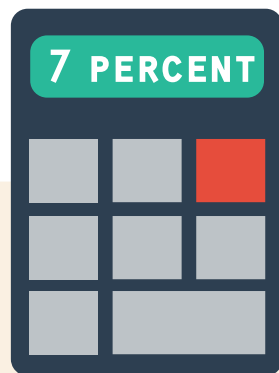
Amount of money given to students (during one academic year)



11,502 TOTAL NUMBER OF LAS UNDERGRADUATES

48 percent
percentage of LAS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WITH NEED

Percentage of STUDENTS RECEIVING a SCHOLARSHIP



Lincoln Scholars is the college's main scholarship initiative. Students selected as Lincoln Scholars have both high merit and high need and receive annual \$5k scholarships that can be renewed for up to four years.

66 Total number of Lincoln Scholars since the program's inception in 2012

NUMBER OF LINCOLN SCHOLARS WHO HAVE GRADUATED **20**

GIVE THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

Gifts from alumni and friends can make a world of difference for current and future LAS students. Visit go.las.illinois.edu/lis to learn more about the Lincoln Scholars Initiative or to make a gift of any size.



Overall scholarship data is from the most recent academic year available, 2015-2016. Lincoln Scholars data is as of June 2017.

2017-18 Upcoming events

Join us for this year's LAS alumni events! Take advantage of these new opportunities to reunite with friends and classmates, have fun, and learn something new. You'll also find out more about initiatives and programs that make LAS one of the best colleges in higher education.

For more information and event registration, please visit las.illinois.edu/alumni/events, email us at las-alum@illinois.edu, or call (217) 333-7108.

LAS Career Symposium
Networking with LAS alumni trailblazers
10 a.m.-3 p.m. • **Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017**
Illini Rooms, Illini Union

Rededication of the Chemistry Annex
10 a.m. • **Friday, Oct. 6, 2017**
Chemistry Annex on the Illinois campus

LAS Alumni Awards Ceremony
6-9:30 p.m. • **Friday, Oct. 27, 2017**
I-Hotel and Conference Center, Illinois campus

Homecoming Open House at the Natural History Building
Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017
Natural History Building on the Illinois campus

Math Meets Music
Program by the Department of Mathematics
Noon to 3 p.m. • **Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017**
South Lounge, Illini Union

Dine at Spiaggia with Chef Tony Mantuano
Noon to 3 p.m. • **Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018**
Spiaggia Restaurant, Chicago

Politics Today
April 2018
Hotel Allegro, Chicago

Stay IN TOUCH

Updating your contact information helps you stay informed about College of LAS news, events, and opportunities to support your alma mater. And it helps us stay connected with the college's best friends and testaments to its success—you.

Let us know the best way to reach you by visiting go.las.illinois.edu/alumnicontract.

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See news and photos from around the college—and share your own—by connecting with us on social media.

Our new LinkedIn Group especially encourages networking among our thousands of alumni.

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The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is full of unlimited potential. We offer students freedom and flexibility. Exploration and enlightenment. And the basic foundations and tools they need to thrive.

We offer 70 majors and boundless opportunities to make a difference on campus and throughout the world. As students seize these chances, they're learning skills that translate to phenomenal careers. Critical thinking. Creativity. Effective communication.

Employers want to hire our students. At the time of graduation, 83 percent of our 2015-16 graduates were heading to full-time jobs, further education, or full-time service opportunities. Their average salary? \$48,981. Many graduates earned starting salaries above the national average.*

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