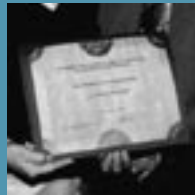




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## Message From the Dean

Now that we are well into a new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on the College of Applied Life Studies. Over the past year many of you have reconnected with us through events, such as the ALS Student/Alumni Career Night, or through return visits to campus to attend a College function. Several of those events are featured in the pages that follow. It is very gratifying to the faculty, students, and administrators of the College of ALS to have such strong and loyal support from our alumni. This support comes at a crucial time in the College's history.

One indicator of our growth has been the increased student demand for our programs of study. This fall we welcomed 233 freshmen, almost a 40% increase from five years ago. Our overall College enrollment this year is 1,465 undergraduate students and 217 graduate students, a record high. Twenty freshmen were recruited as ALS Scholars, high-achieving students who receive a \$1,000 privately funded scholarship.

Another indicator of our growth is the success of our faculty in securing external grants and contracts. These awards continue to provide critical support for our instructional, research, and outreach activities. This year we were excited to welcome six new faculty who bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences to ALS. Faculty recruitment will remain a priority in the coming year as we seek additional faculty scholars for all of our departments.

The newly remodeled space in Huff Hall has had an enormous impact on our programs. We recently introduced wireless technology to further increase the flexibility and use of technology in our new seminar room and auditorium. In addition, renovation of approximately 3,000 square feet of laboratory and research office space in Freer Hall will be completed during this next year. To accommodate our growing programs, we will continue to seek opportunities to improve the existing research and instructional space throughout *all* of our facilities.

The involvement of our alumni is a vitally important part of these efforts. I am truly grateful for the time that many of you have given to our College, as your partnership has and will continue to be critical to our success in realizing the ambitious agenda we have set for ourselves.



*Tanya Gallagher, Dean*



*Dean Tanya M. Gallagher  
B.S. '67, M.S. '69, Ph.D. '71*



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Recreation, Sport and Tourism: . Cary McDonald  
Speech and Hearing Science: . . . Ron Chambers  
Division of Disability Resources and  
Educational Services: ..... Brad Hedrick



## Mom's Day Connects Students, Parents, and Staff



Jenni Monroe and her parents, Donna and Neil Monroe, visit with Kinesiology advisor Amy O'Neill at the ALS Mom's Day Brunch and Information Session on April 17 attended by more than 250 parents and students. The session featured presentations by faculty and advisors about the ALS curriculum and what students can expect at the University of Illinois. This annual event is one of the many ways ALS helps to ensure students get the most from their college experience.

## DRI Welcomes New Staff Member

### Jane Ruseski, Ph.D.

Associate Research Coordinator, Disability Research Institute

Dr. Ruseski joins the Disability Research Institute after serving as an economist with the Federal Trade Commission since 1999. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Ruseski's research interests are in health economics, particularly in antitrust policy and competition in health care markets. She is also interested in research on the industrial organization of hospital and physician markets.



## Ellis Lecture on Disability Attracts Two Leading Researchers

The College of Applied Life Studies welcomed two noted researchers to the Urbana campus as part of the 2004 Michael J. Ellis Distinguished Lecture on Disability Science and Practice. The first lecture, on April 19, was presented by Dr. Michael Weinrich, the director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research in Bethesda, Maryland. The title of his presentation was *Computers and Stroke Rehabilitation: What is the Future for Rehabilitation?* In it he traced the development of our understanding of aphasia (loss of language due to acquired brain injury) and the therapeutic tools for treatment. On April 30, Dr. Robert Stodden from the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa presented *Supporting Persons With Disabilities in Postsecondary Education Settings: Looking Beyond Basic Compliance*. Dr. Stodden discussed recommendations and strategies for assessing the quality of supports and services for optimizing admission, retention, completion, and subsequent employment rates for students with disabilities in post-secondary education.

The Ellis Lecture Series is sponsored by the College of Applied Life Studies and honors the contributions of Dean Emeritus Michael Ellis to the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services. The annual lecture is funded through a generous gift from University of Illinois alumnus Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD.



Dean Tanya Gallagher, Brad Hedrick, Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., and Michael Weinrich.

## DRI Receives Additional Funding

The College of Applied Life Studies was selected in 2000 as the site of the Social Security Administration's first national Disability Research Institute (DRI). The five-year grant was initially funded at \$5.25 million but to date has received in excess of \$18 million, funding research that helps inform SSA's policies for individuals with disabilities. The DRI has provided the campus with an important opportunity to showcase and extend its long-standing leadership in the area of disability. To learn more about DRI activities and outcomes, see [www.dri.uiuc.edu](http://www.dri.uiuc.edu).



**On the Job:**

**Carol Firkins**

*By Sharita Forrest, UI News Bureau*

UI students taking course work in the College of Applied Life Studies know whom to see when they need direction or just a quick sugar fix: Carol Firkins, academic adviser in the Department of Community Health and coordinator of applied life studies. Firkins, a past winner of the Campus-wide Award for Excellence in Advising Undergraduate Students (2002) and the ALS Academic Professional Excellence Award (2001), has developed a reputation for dispensing both good advice and sweet treats, as evidenced by the plaques on her office wall and the ubiquitous bowl of candies on her desk. “Even when they’re not coming in for a counseling appointment, the students will come in and get a Life Saver,” Firkins said. “I hand them out at graduation and sometimes I’ll send a bag to a class in one of our majors if I know they’re having a big test.” Firkins, who joined the UI staff in 1996, earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural communications from the UI and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Illinois University.



*Bill Wiegand*

tion and sometimes I’ll send a bag to a class in one of our majors if I know they’re having a big test.” Firkins, who joined the UI staff in 1996, earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural communications from the UI and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Illinois University.

**Tell me about your job.**

I’m responsible for advising about 350 students who are designated community health majors or who are in other departments but taking courses in the college.

I’m also the coordinator for the community health internships. The students have a required 320-hour internship one semester, and right now I have 85 students placed

in organizations such as the YMCA, hospitals, nursing homes, McKinley Health Center, Planned Parenthood, the American Cancer Society, Prairie Center, A Woman’s Place and Frances Nelson Health Center. Each site has a preceptor that the students job-shadow so they can learn about various facets of a job they’re interested in.

I help students choose classes, help them on their career paths and help them balance out their resumes in terms of volunteer activities and work experience. Plus, I have the students in two classes that I teach: Community Health 111, which is orientation, and Community Health 280, which is introduction to internship.

It is a great job. I love what I do. Every day students come through my door with unique problems for me to help them with. They’re just a great, great group of students. They’re ‘people people’ and they have big hearts. I’m so lucky to get to work with this group because they are so caring.

**What’s the most challenging part of what you do?**

Keeping track of all the students. I really like to get to know my students as individuals.

**What’s your favorite part of what you do?**

Working with the students and helping them find their niches. I consult with the professors and the contacts that I have to help the students find the right field for them. When the kids say, ‘Wow, this is what I came to school for,’ that’s probably the best part of my job.

**What types of careers are they typically looking for?**

Health care is such an open field right now that the list of the different fields our students can go into is endless. I’m always saying that for every part of the body and every disease there’s an organization that’s looking for professionals.

**Alumni Develop Rehab Program in Ireland**

The Tipperary Institute in Ireland has developed an undergraduate rehabilitation education program that is taught largely by students who are master’s alumni of the rehabilitation program in the Department of Community Health. Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist attended the launch of the program this past spring. Pictured left to right: Mary Cantwell (MS ’00), Bernice Costello (MS ’99), Joan Guil Foyle (MS ’99), Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Gillian Quealy (MS ’00), and Helen Connelly.





## Community Health Students Recognized for Achievement



The Department of Community Health held its annual awards ceremony on May 6, 2004. Among the award winners were Nicole Hillier, who was presented with the William H. Creswell Award, and Travis Gayles, who received the Howard Hoyman Award.

*Creswell Award: left to right, Tom O'Rourke, Peter Mulball, Nicole Hillier, Jean Creswell, Tanya Gallagher.*



*Hoyman Award: Reginald Alston and Travis Gayles*

### ALS Faculty Retrospective: Howard "Mike" Hoyman (1902–1993)

Dr. Hoyman is noted particularly for his contributions to sex education and the introduction of ecology concepts to health education. He developed the first sex education program for grades one through twelve. The Four Cycle Curriculum for health instruction which Dr. Hoyman developed has now been widely adopted and is considered a major contribution to the theory and practice of health education. His ecological model for health has significantly influenced the thinking of health educators.

In 1931, Dr. Hoyman received his bachelor's degree in health and physical education from The Ohio State University. He earned his master's degree in 1932 and his doctorate in 1945, both in health education, from Columbia University. He pursued other graduate studies in the areas of science, education and public health at Stanford University, The Ohio State University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Michigan. Prior to his arrival at the University of Illinois as a professor of health education and as the first head of the Department of Health and Safety Education, Dr. Hoyman was a professor at the University of Oregon. He served as professor and head of the department until his retirement in 1970 as professor emeritus.

Dr. Hoyman was instrumental in starting two new research laboratories: the Safety and Driver Education Laboratory and the Health Education Laboratory. He also conducted field studies of school and public health education in the former Soviet Union and school health education, including sex education, in Sweden. He was the author of six books including two widely used textbooks: *Your Health and Safety* and *Functional Health and Safety*. He wrote over 200 journal articles on sex and health education. Dr. Hoyman was honored many times including designations from Phi Beta Kappa, the American Public Health Association, and the American School of Health Association.

Today in the Department of Community Health the **Hoyman Student Award** fund provides support for students enrolled in the Department, with special consideration given to graduate students with families or other students who are deemed to have financial need.



## Two Professors Receive Awards

Recognition by professional organizations is an important indicator of our faculty's influence on a regional and national basis. Two professors in the Department of Kinesiology were presented with major awards by their peers. Dr. Gerald Bell, who has been the director of the Athletic Training Program for over 20 years, recently received the 2004 Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association (GLATA) Educator of the Year Award.



*Dr. Bell (left) is pictured with Rich Shaw, president of GLATA—District 4 of the NATA.*



*Dr. Weimo Zhu*

Dr. Weimo Zhu was recognized at the 2004 American Alliance of Health, Physical, Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) National Convention and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana where he was presented the 2004 Measurement and Evaluation Award.

## New Faculty

### **Bo Fernhall, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs

Dr. Fernhall comes to the College of Applied Life Studies from Syracuse University where since 2000 he has served as professor and chair of the Exercise and Science Department. He received both a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in exercise science at Southern Connecticut State College. He completed his Ph.D. in exercise physiology at Arizona State University. Dr. Fernhall is widely recognized as a leading scholar in the area of disability and physical activity with a successful history of external funding. He brings considerable research and administrative experience to this position.



### **Robert W. Motl, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Since 2003, Dr. Motl has been a visiting assistant professor in the Kinesiology Department. He received his bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in psychology, a master's degree in exercise science from the University of Wyoming and his Ph.D. in exercise science from the University of Georgia. Dr. Motl's primary areas of interest include exercise psychology, physical activity and multiple sclerosis, and adolescent physical activity.

### **Kenneth Wilund, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Dr. Wilund comes to the University of Illinois from the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences, master's degree in public management and Ph.D. degree in kinesiology were all earned at the University of Maryland. Dr. Wilund's primary teaching and research interests include the effects of exercise training on disorders related to abnormal lipid metabolism, including hyperlipidemia, cardiovascular disease, and cholesterol gallstones. In particular, he is interested in utilizing mouse models of these diseases to study the molecular mechanisms by which exercise may affect lipid metabolism in these disorders.



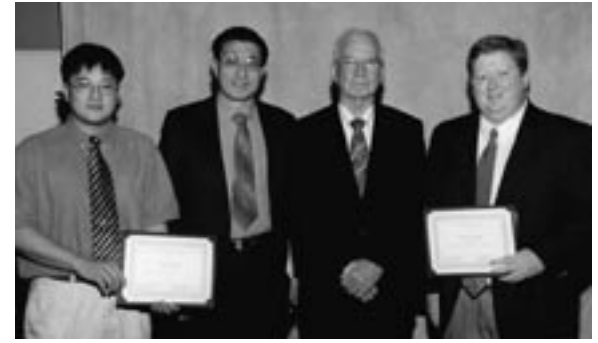
# Student Awards Night



Dr. Alyce Cheska, former head of the Department of Physical Education for Women, and Professor Les Carlton present Melissa Murlasits with the Beulah Drom Scholarship. Beulah Drom was a Kinesiology faculty member from 1947 to 1970, and was known by students as the “teacher of teachers.” Dr. Cheska established the scholarship in Drom’s honor to recognize her significant contributions to Illinois.



Dr. Kim Huey and Mrs. Portia Cureton present Todd Keylock with the T.K. Cureton Physical Fitness Research Award. Dr. Cureton (1901-1992), often referred to as “the father of physical fitness,” was an internationally known scientist at the U of I and played a crucial role in the development of the fitness movement in America.



Minsoo Kang (left) and Brian Ragan (right) are presented the Robert L. Sprague Thesis Award by Dr. Weimo Zhu and Professor Emeritus Robert Sprague. The award was established by Dr. and Mrs. Sprague to help defray thesis expenses of graduate students in the Department of Kinesiology.

## ALS Faculty Retrospective: Carita Robertson (1897-1990)

As a graduate of State Teachers College at Moorhead, Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin, Carita Robertson joined the University of Illinois’ physical education faculty in 1925.

She received a master of arts from the University of Illinois in 1929 and went on to serve as head of the Department of Physical Education for Women, a post she held until her retirement in 1963. Beginning in 1960 she acted as supervisor of the teacher education program in physical education and chairman of the University Area Committee in the Preparation of Teachers of Physical Education for Women. In 1967, she returned to the faculty on a part-time basis to instruct the teaching of sports. In addition to her unique instructional style, alums may remember Robertson’s role in the 1969 homecoming ceremonies marking the naming of Louise Freer Gymnasium.



“Miss Robertson was one of those people who made a lasting impression on you,” shared Lucille Kann (BS ’53). “She instilled the concept of professionalism with a sly sense of humor. When you think of what the U of I is and means, you think of her. She was and will always be ‘Miss Robertson.’”

Following her retirement, the PEW Alumnae Scholarship was renamed the **Carita Robertston Scholarship Fund** in her honor, and today this fund continues to support deserving undergraduate students in the department.

## Same Department, New Name

The Department of Leisure Studies has officially changed its name to the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism. The department has had departmental status on the University of Illinois campus since 1957 with the original name Department of Recreation. Since 1957, the department has had three name changes as the discipline evolved and grew.

In 2002, the department began the process of identify-

ing a new name, and submitted a formal request in early 2004. "The new name 'Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism' more accurately reflects our instructional programs and conveys a more positive descriptor of who we are—both important aspects for building a clear identity of the department and ultimately the profession," shared department head Cary McDonald.

## Diversity Lab Hosts Seminar

As part of the year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education decision, the Diversity Lab in the Department of



*Dr. Maria Allison (associate dean of Graduate College from Arizona State University), one of the speakers at the Diversity Research Lab's seminar.*

Recreation, Sport, and Tourism hosted *Looking Beyond Traditional Models: Racial and Ethnic Issues in Leisure Research*. This seminar, organized by Dr. Monika Stodolska, featured renowned scholars in issues of ethnicity, race, and leisure who provided critiques of existing research on the leisure of racial and ethnic minorities, discussions of new trends in leisure research that focuses on racial and ethnic minorities, and an examination of how colleges and universities can better recruit and train ethnic/racial minorities in the field of recreation, tourism, and sport.

## Grodsky, Edginton Honored by Department



Rich Grodsky (BS '77) (left), executive director of the Elmhurst Park District in Elmhurst, Illinois, was presented with the 2004 Joseph J. Bannon Practitioner Award by Dr. Bannon. The award recognizes individuals who have displayed innovation in community service and support of the field of parks and recreation at both the state and national level.



Webb Norman (BS '57, MS '60) (left) executive director of the Rockford Park District, congratulates Chris Edginton (MS '71), director of the School of Health, Physical Education, and Rehabilitation Services at the University of Northern Iowa, the 2004 recipient of the Charles K. Brightbill Alumnus Award.



## ALS Faculty Retrospective: George A. Lowrey, Jr. (1927–1987)

Dr. Lowrey is remembered by his students “as someone who could take them through the process of learning while preserving the joy of discovery.” He received his bachelor’s degree in 1949 from Southwest Texas State College in physical education and mathematics. In 1959, he earned a master’s in physical education from the University of Texas. Dr. Lowrey was awarded a Ph.D. in 1969 from the University of Illinois in recreation and park administration. He joined the U of I faculty in 1969 and retired as professor emeritus in 1986 after 17 years of service.

Dr. Lowrey is noted for his instrumental role in starting the American University’s International Program for Study Abroad in Scotland and his work coordinating the field practicum for many years. Dr. Lowrey authored or co-authored over fifteen books and many articles. He was the recipient of awards and citations from fifteen state and local organizations, including the National Recreation and Park Association and the Illinois Association of Park Districts, as well as a state resolution in his honor.

He served as the past president of the Texas Recreation and Park Society, and was on the boards of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and National Park and Recreation Association. He also served the state of Illinois and its communities as communications specialist with the U of I’s Office of Recreation and Park Resources.

George Lowrey’s memory lives on today in the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism through the **George and Mary Lowrey Memorial** scholarship, which is awarded to undergraduates who exemplify outstanding leadership, service, and merit.



### New Faculty

#### Brad Humphreys, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism

Dr. Humphreys received two bachelor’s degrees from West Virginia University and his master’s and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. Since 1995, Dr. Humphreys has been a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Dr. Humphreys is an economist who does research on economics and sport. He has published papers on the economic impact of professional sports facilities and franchises on local economies, the impact of Title IX on intercollegiate athletic programs, and competitive balance in sports leagues, among other topics.



#### Anna-Marie “Marieke” Van Puymbroeck, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism

Dr. Van Puymbroeck received her Ph.D. in rehabilitation science from the University of Florida in May 2004. Her dissertation dealt with the predictors of quality of life in stroke caregivers at one and six months post stroke. She completed her master’s degree at the University of Florida in recreation studies and her bachelor’s degree in therapeutic recreation from Longwood College in Farmville, VA. Dr. Van Puymbroeck’s research interests focus on the quality of life for people with disabilities and the individuals who care for them.

## Dr. Ehud Yairi Named Professor Emeritus

For over 30 years Dr. Ehud Yairi has been a leading researcher in stuttering and fluency disorders. His work has been highly influential, enabling researchers and clinicians to better understand the onset and diverse developmental paths of stuttering and their direct clinical implications.

Dr. Yairi's awards are numerous. In 2001 he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Speech Pathology & Audiology Department at the University of Iowa. He was also the first scientist to have received the Research Award of Distinction from the International Fluency Association. In 2002, Dr. Yairi received the Honors of the Association by the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of distinguished contributions in the field of speech-language pathology.

Professor Yairi's research has been supported by several major grants from the National Institutes of Health, including the largest grant ever awarded for research in stuttering—more than \$4 million—to investigate subtypes of this disorder. As professor emeritus, Dr. Yairi will remain actively involved with this grant and continue his widely recognized research on stuttering.



## John J. O'Neill Lecture

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science welcomed Professor Raymond Kent to campus this past spring as the featured speaker in the John J. O'Neill Lecture Series. Dr. Kent, of the Department of Communicative Disorders and Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented *Lessons Learned From Studies of Speech Development: How to Grow a Vocal Tract and Use It*.

The lecture series is funded by an annual contribution from U of I alumnus Dr. John Deck in honor of former Speech and Hearing Science professor and department head John J. O'Neill. Dr. O'Neill is noted for his pioneering work in aural rehabilitation.

Speakers and topics are selected based on their relevance to current students' clinical training experiences and recent academic issues.



*Left to right: Former faculty members in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science gather at the O'Neill Lecture: Joan Good Erickson, Elaine Paden, John O'Neill, Frances Johnson, and Robert Simpson.*



*Ehud Yairi, Raymond Kent (O'Neill lecturer), John O'Neill, and John Deck (AM '70, PhD '85).*

## ALS Faculty Retrospective: Phyllis Ariens Burkhead (1928–1969)

As a speech-therapist for the Urbana public schools, Phyllis Ariens Burkhead (MS '61) was recruited by former department head John O'Neill to serve as clinical supervisor. Although her primary responsibility was to evaluate the clinical skills of her students, she also served as a mentor and role model to many.

"Students loved Phyllis Burkhead," recalls Dr. O'Neill. "She was one of our very best clinical supervisors. Countless students benefited from her exemplary clinical abilities, professional endeavors, and devotion to learning."

Phyllis's commitment to higher education was also evidenced by her enrollment as a doctoral student in the department. Unfortunately, Phyllis's career and academic goals were cut short due to her untimely death in 1969.

As a tribute to his wife, Clyde Burkhead established the **Phyllis A. Burkhead Memorial Fellowship**. Income from the endowed fund supports an annual award to a doctoral student in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science—a fitting tribute to someone whose influence will always be remembered.



## New Faculty

### David Quinto-Pozos, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Speech and Hearing Science

Dr. Quinto-Pozos most recently served as Lecturer in Linguistics and Director of the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages Center and the Professional Translation Certificate Program in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Linguistics. He received his bachelor's degree in sign language interpretation/religious studies at the University of Mexico and his master's and Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Quinto-Pozos' research interests include language contact in deaf communities, manual gestures and their interaction with linguistic elements of signed languages, and the tactile signed language used by Deaf-Blind individuals.



## Bilger Award Presented

Jeffery Larsen, a doctoral student studying speech intelligibility and reverberation, was recognized as the 2004 recipient of the Bob Bilger Graduate Student Award. The award honors former Speech and Hearing Science professor Bob Bilger, who served both as a faculty member and department head during his U of I career, which spanned nearly 25 years.

The award was established by Bob prior to his death to support doctoral students across the U of I campus whose research focuses on the auditory system. Pictured above are Jeffrey with Lynn Bilger, his wife Anne, and their daughter.



## Pioneering Wheelchair Athletes Recognized for Breaking Barriers

More than 90 athletes who participated in adapted varsity sports at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 1948 and 1976 were recognized this past spring with a varsity letter presented by the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Letter recipients were those who competed on a national or international level in one of five sports (archery, basketball, fencing, swimming, and track and field).

Under the leadership of Timothy J. Nugent, Illinois became the first post-secondary institution in the nation to provide a support-service program for students with disabilities; that program included opportunities to participate in competitive adapted sports. In 1977, Illinois



*Team photographer Curt Beamer (left) and Jeanette and Tim Nugent welcome back former coach Al Youakim (second from right).*



*Cliff Crase, along with his wife Nancy, Judy Waterman Huston (AB '65, AM '67) and Earl Huston (BS '66) proudly display their framed varsity letters presented during the banquet.*



*Honorees Judy Harris (BS '70) and her husband Tim (AB '71) visit with long-time friend Jack Whitman (BS '65).*



*DRES director Brad Hedrick (PhD '84) congratulates varsity letter honorees Rich Feltes (BS '70, center) and Kim Pollock (BS '71).*

*"It was a fabulous time, literally a singularly unique, once-in-a-lifetime event and honor. The opportunities Tim Nugent created for young people with disabilities 50 years ago, way before it was fashionable or legally mandated, gave each of us the chance to experience all aspects of the college experience. For me, it was absolutely life-changing. The actual letter presentation was almost anticlimactic given the aura of the two days, but the standing ovation for us at the end was a standout moment for all time."*

LARRY LABIAK (BS '76, MS '84)





Tom Schaefer

became the nation's first university to award varsity letters to athletes with disabilities; however, athletes prior to 1977 did not have the opportunity to receive the same acknowledgment until this year.

To celebrate the historic occasion, honorees were invited back to campus May 7-8 to participate in "Breaking Barriers," a program organized in their honor by the College's Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services and the Dean's Office.

"The theme 'Breaking Barriers' truly exemplifies the spirit of these men and women at the university level



Current student athletes Stephanie Wheeler and Janna Crawford team up for a scrimmage with Larry Labiak (BS '76, MS '84) and Don Vandello.



Banquet guests view the scrapbooks, trophies, and other memorabilia on display at Huff Gym.

## Paralympic Athletes in Athens

The Olympic games in Athens were well represented by current students and past alumni, with 28 athletes and 3 coaches competing. Congratulations to the following individuals!

### Athletics

Adam Bleakney (AB '00, MS '02)  
 Jessica Galli  
 Joshua George  
 Scot Hollonbeck (BS '93)  
 Miriam Nibley (AB '03)  
 Ian Rice (BS '98)

Teresa Lannon (BS '00)  
 Christina Ripp  
 Jana Stump (BS'98)  
 Stephanie Wheeler (BS '04)  
 Jennifer Warkins (BS '00, EDM '01,  
 PhD '04)

### Bocce

Sam Williams

### Quad Rugby

Norm Lyduch (BS '95)

### Swimming

Stephanie Brooks (BS '03)  
 Sarah Castle

### Sit Volleyball

Curtis Lease (BS '94)

### Coaches

Mike Frogley—Canadian Men's  
 Wheelchair Basketball Team  
 Craig Hampel—Athletics (BS '94)  
 Kevin Orr—Quad Rugby (BS '91)

### Basketball—Men

Patrick Anderson (Canada)  
 Gavin Cloy  
 Travis Gaertner (Canada) (BS '03)  
 Adam Lancia (Canada)  
 Grant Mizens (Australia) (AB '04)  
 Chris Stoutenburg (Canada)

### Basketball—Women

Patricia Cisneros (EDM '03)  
 Janna Crawford (BA '01, MA '03,  
 MS '04)  
 Tracey Ferguson (Canada)  
 Carlee Hoffman  
 Emily Hoskins  
 Susan Katz

and nationwide as many achieved remarkable success as athletes and as individuals," stated Brad Hedrick, director of the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services. "Illinois' leadership in disability programs and services has been instrumental in overcoming not only athletic barriers but also those related to attitudes, architecture, and academics for all persons with disabilities."

*Photo credits: Curt Beamer, except where noted. Curt has served as DRES photographer for nearly 50 years, volunteering his time and traveling thousands of miles to capture many memorable moments with his camera.*

## Assistive Technology Affects Employment Outcomes

In a research study for the Disability Research Institute, Brad Hedrick, the director of the College's Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services, found that access to assistive technologies (AT) may be a critical factor in the employment success of persons with spinal cord injury or disease (SCID). However, the relationship between AT ownership and employment appears to be affected by a wide range of variables.

Although employer AT accommodation reports were positive, the high cost of some assistive technologies may still prevent persons with disabilities from joining the labor force, especially those most inclined toward self-employment. The study analyzed data from two groups of working-aged adults with SCID—94 Illinois alumni and 101 adults with mixed educational backgrounds. Hedrick said the research was motivated, in part, by the fact that “little is known about the extent to which AT ownership promotes employment outcomes.”

In this study, the researchers determined that the mean cost of AT devices was 68 to 124 percent greater for persons who were self-employed than for individuals in other areas of employment. “Depending upon the individual's underwriting resource options, this could be a substantial barrier to individuals for whom entrepreneurial work at home is the most viable employment option,” Hedrick said. That includes individuals with more severe disabilities, those for whom transportation is a major obstacle, or those whose routine medical appointments require substantial time away from a traditional office setting.

“People who are self-employed don't have a lot of environmental assets that you'd have in a corporate structure,” Hedrick said. “Some things would have to be procured and would exacerbate start-up costs.”

In the study, “the majority of the devices owned by the respondents were characterized as important to work, and devices identified as important to work were 3.5 times more expensive than other devices,” Hedrick said. The mean cost per AT device owned by the two groups was more than \$2,000. This was because of the prevalence of such expensive devices as wheelchairs, motorized carts, power lifts and automobile control systems. The study indicates that many employers today recognize the value of making workplace accommodations available to employees with disabilities.



Bill Wiegand

“Access to workplace accommodations appears to have been quite good for both the college-educated group and the mixed-education group, and AT satisfaction levels for all respondents were very high regardless of employment status and employment history,” Hedrick said. Further, most workplace accommodations were reported to have already been at the work site or to have been implemented specifically for the respondent, and only one of 114 respondents who had worked in the previous five years reported having to change jobs as a result of the unavailability of AT.

“This seems to suggest that the unemployment of individuals with SCID is unlikely to be a function of insufficient access to AT in the workplace or the unwillingness of employers to provide necessary AT or other workplace accommodations,” Hedrick said the researchers weren't surprised to find a positive response from respondents regarding employers' willingness to provide AT, but “we were surprised that it was so overwhelmingly positive.”

Hedrick hopes the survey tool the researchers developed for this study will be adapted to investigate the role of AT and employment outcomes for people with different types of disabilities. If barriers to employment could be removed, “the potential cost savings realized by the Social Security Administration (SSA) through the successful efforts to facilitate beneficiaries' return to work through AT use may prove to be considerable,” Hedrick said.

# Disability Success Story: Presenting the Illinois Model

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has long been known for its pioneering programs and services for students with disabilities. And judging by results of recent studies of employment outcomes for University graduates with severe disabilities, those programs are continuing to make their mark. Recent survey responses from 94 Illinois alumni with spinal cord injuries or disease (SCID) who graduated between 1978 and 2002 indicate that 79 percent of graduates with paraplegia and 70 percent of those with quadriplegia were employed. In addition:

- 92 percent had worked for pay in the past five years;
- 90 percent had graduate degrees;
- 73 percent had annual personal incomes greater than \$35,000;
- 42.8 percent had annual personal incomes in excess of \$50,000.

Brad Hedrick, the principal investigator for the study, said those figures contrast with a 2000 National Organization on Disability/Harris poll that indicated only 33 percent of working-age persons with disabilities with college degrees were working full time for pay, and 12 percent were working part time.

These data and others were presented by Hedrick and Tanya Gallagher, the dean of the College of Applied Life Studies and the director of the Disability Research Institute, at the Emerging Workforce Conference in Weston, Florida this past February. The conference included representatives from the National Council on Disability, the Social Security Administration, and representatives from other federal, state and international entities. The presentation by Gallagher and Hedrick focused on the strengths of the “Illinois Model” for educating students with disabilities. The model, Hedrick said, “is born of a holistic philosophy that includes academic, physical, social and psychological supports.”



Among its many components, the Illinois Model includes intensive transitional orientation for students on both ends of the collegiate experience—as they move from high school to the university, and later, from the university into the job market. Illinois is one of only three institutions to offer personal-assistant services, which Hedrick said, serve as a bridge—“between the mom-and-dad service” students with disabilities have typically relied upon and “the self-sufficient approach to the management of personal assistants that they will need to be successful following graduation.”

In addition to the survey results of alumni with SCID, Hedrick said another measure of the success of the Illinois Model is the fact that only one percentage point separates the graduation rate of Illinois students with disabilities from that of the campus at large. “But nationally, according to a 1999 study by the National Center on Education Statistics, students with disabilities are 15 percent less likely to graduate than their peers without disabilities,” he said.

## Third Straight National Title for Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team

For the third consecutive year, Illinois won the National Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Jennifer Warkins pumped in 28 points and front court teammate Janna Crawford added 17 as the University of Illinois Fighting Illini outscored the Dallas Lady Texans 57-29 to capture the 30th National Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Championship at Slippery Rock University.



*Jennifer Warkins (#23) holds up the 3-peat championship trophy.*

continued

## Tom O'Rourke Honored

Dr. Tom O'Rourke was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2004 Alumni Association Educator's Award. Each year, as part of the Senior 100 Honorary, the University of Illinois Alumni Association and Student Alumni Association recognize one University faculty member with this prestigious award. As part of the application process for Senior 100, students are invited to nominate

a U of I professor who has served as mentor or role model. The comments from the letter of nomination echo the sentiments of many who have been taught by Dr. O'Rourke: "I believe that my experience with 'T.O.' has truly been a blessing. Professor O'Rourke brings himself to a level where he shares common ground with his students. He treats his students like family. I hope that I will remain part of this "family" by keeping in touch with him after both of us leave the University of Illinois."

In addition, Dr. O'Rourke was recently awarded the William A. Howe Award at the 78th Annual American School

Health Association Conference. The William A. Howe Award, distinguished service in school health. Presented in memory of William A. Howe, MD, a founder and first president of the Association, the award acknowledged the recipient's outstanding professional contributions paralleling the aims and objectives of the Association. With members in 56 countries, the American School Health Association is the largest national organization devoted solely to the health of school-aged children.

Dr. O'Rourke will be assuming emeritus status this fall, the next stage of his 34-year career as a faculty member at the University of Illinois. Dr. O'Rourke's research in health policy analysis and in the area of health promotion is internationally recognized, and he has a long history of leadership and service in the field of health education. He has served as the president of the American School Health Association, as a member of the Secretary of Health and Human Services Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, as president of the Association for the Advancement of Health Education and has served on numerous other prestigious boards and councils related to disease prevention and health promotion.



### Share Your News With Us!

We take pride in the accomplishments of our alumni and look forward to hearing from you. Please share your recent activities (career advancement, honors, publications, appointments, etc.) with us. We welcome newspaper clippings, press releases, and pictures, too! Send your information to Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 110 Huff Hall, 1206 South Fourth Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Or you may email the information to [alumni@als.uiuc.edu](mailto:alumni@als.uiuc.edu)

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## Student-Alumni Career Night Continues to Grow

The College of Applied Life Studies once again hosted the ALS Student/Alumni Career Night this past spring. Alumni from all units in the College returned to campus to meet with current students to offer advice about career options.

*“Students really appreciate the involvement of ALS alumni. They have so much to offer in terms of practical advice and are wonderful role models for those of us who are about to enter the job market.”*

NATALIE ARP, PRESIDENT  
ALS STUDENT COUNCIL, CLASS OF 2005



*Kinesiology students Michelle Kadish, left, and Yadira Montoya meet with alumnus Douglas Conroy (BS, '78), founder of Conroy Orthopaedics and Sports Therapy.*

*“Career Night reminds me of the future of our profession and how very important it is to invest in that future by giving back to today’s students whenever possible.”*

LAURA KANN (BS '82, MS '83)  
BRANCH CHIEF, CENTERS FOR  
DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



*Here Jayne DeLuce (BS '87, MS '88) Associate Director, U of I Campus Recreation, meets with Recreation, Sport, and Tourism students Dustin Tripp and Nicholas Barrow.*



*Students in the Department of Community Health meet with alumni Fritz Marthol (BS '01) and Dr. Kirk Moberg (MS '94, PhD '89, MD '90).*

**Rhoda Agin** (AM '71, Ph.D. '76, Speech and Hearing Science) Berkeley, CA, was honored at the second annual Distinguished Lecturer in Communicative Sciences and Disorders at California State University-Hayward in May 2004. She was honored for her essential and founding contributions to the department and her over 25 years of service to California State University at Hayward where she is now professor emeritus. Rhoda specializes in voice disorders and re-training.



**Jerry Colangelo** (BS '62 Physical Education for Men) Phoenix, AZ, was one of six former players, coaches and team executives inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA, on September 10, 2004. Jerry was named general manager of the Phoenix Suns at the age of 28 and is a four-time NBA Executive of the Year. He was also instrumental in the creation of the WNBA.



**Steven Anderson** (MS '92, Recreation, Sport and Tourism) Redding, CA, became the new field office manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Redding office in April 2004. The Redding office is responsible for natural resource management of over 350,000 acres of public lands in Butte, Tehama, Shasta,

Trinity, and Siskiyou counties. Steve will oversee a staff of 30 employees.



**Jaime Haak** (BS '03, Community Health) Chicago, IL, has, since August 2003, worked with the policy director and now the deputy governor of Illinois. In the Governor's Office, she works not only in the health field, but also with a wide range of issues, from budget to telecommunications.

**Lori Bakker** (BS '98, Recreation, Sport and Tourism) Chicago, IL, is the chief financial officer for Chicago Special Events Management. Her duties focus on the overall management of the company including overseeing all company and event financials. She started with the organization as an intern in 1998.



**Robin Hall** (BS '66, MS '75, Recreation, Sport and Tourism) Urbana, IL, retired from the Urbana Park District after 35 years of service, spending the past 33 years as executive director. His first job at the park district was in 1967 when as a graduate student he taught archery. During Robin's tenure, the park district grew from nine park sites and 204 acres of land to 23 parks and 570 acres. Robin serves on the ALS Alumni Board and is a lecturer in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism.



**Al Bowman** (PhD '79, Speech and Hearing Science) Normal, IL, was named Illinois State University's 17th president on March 1, 2004. In 1968, Al joined the ISU faculty as a professor of speech and audiology; he later served as department head and most recently as interim president of the university.



**Laura Kann** (BS '82, MS '83 Community Health) of Decatur, GA, will receive the MCI Epidemiology Award for Effective Practice at the 2004 Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference in Atlanta later this year. Dr. Kann was selected for this prestigious national award in recognition of her significant contributions to public health practice through the effective use of data and epidemiology. Laura is a Branch Chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where she has worked since 1987. As a key developer of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, Dr. Kann assesses the risk behaviors of American adolescents. Laura is a member of the ALS Alumni Board.

**Douglas Michels** (BS '78, Community Health) Bethlehem, PA, was named president and chief operating officer and appointed to the Board of Directors of OraSure Technologies, Inc. on June 23, 2004. OraSure Technologies is a market leader in oral fluid diagnostics. Mr. Michels has had more than twenty-three years of experience in the medical device, diagnostics and managed care industries, primarily with the Johnson & Johnson family of companies.



**Melissa Parker** (BS '01, Recreation, Sport and Tourism) Chicago, IL, is starting her third season as an assistant coach with the Loyola University Rambler's women's basketball team. Melissa is the staff coordinator for advance travel, conducts scouting for the team and works extensively with the guards on the team. She still

ranks third in the Illini women's history with 135 career three-pointers.

**Bob Szyman** (Ph.D. '80; Recreation, Sport and Tourism) Mt. Greenwood, IL, was inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Hall of Fame that occurred during the awards banquet of the 56th Annual National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in Phoenix on April 3. The award recognizes his contribution to the sport and to the quality of life of thousands of athletes with disabilities.



## ALS Library "Wish List"

The ALS Library is a critical part of our College. The following items are not currently available, but would serve students and faculty across all the departments in our College. To fund one of the following or similar items, please contact the ALS Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 217-244-6600 or [alumni@als.uiuc.edu](mailto:alumni@als.uiuc.edu).

**\$165 to purchase *The Complete Directory for People with Disabilities*, 2005 edition.** A comprehensive, one-stop reference source for individuals, professionals and organizations, providing immediate access to the latest products and services for people with disabilities. This Thirteenth Edition has been completely updated for 2005, offering hundreds of brand new entries and thousands of updates to existing entries. The directory includes detailed information on the following types of resources: Associations & Support Groups, State & Federal Agencies, Camps & Travel Groups, Assistive Devices, Independent Living Centers, Employment & Education Programs, Rehabilitation Facilities and more.

**\$203 to purchase the *Test of Phonological Awareness, Second Edition: PLUS (TOPA-2+)*, 2004.** The TOPA-2+, a revision of the popular *Test of Phonological Awareness*, is a group-administered, norm-referenced measure of phonological awareness for children ages 5 through 8 years. The TOPA-2+ has two versions: one for kindergarten and one for early elementary. Both versions measure young children's ability to (a) isolate individual phonemes in spoken words and (b) understand the relationships between letters and phonemes in English. The latter skill was not assessed by the original TOPA and is the reason the PLUS was added to the title. This assessment kit is one of many that is examined by students in speech and hearing science during their coursework.

**\$225 to purchase *Sports Market Place Directory*, 2004 edition.** For over 20 years, this comprehensive, up-to-date directory has offered direct access to the Who, What, When & Where of the Sports Industry. With over 20,000 updates and enhancements, this 2004 Sports Market Place Directory is the most detailed, comprehensive and current sports business reference source available. In 1,800 pages, this directory profiles contact information and key executives for Sport Organizations and Leagues, Olympic Federations, Governing Bodies, Halls of Fame, Libraries & Museums, Media, market research services, arenas and stadiums, and more.

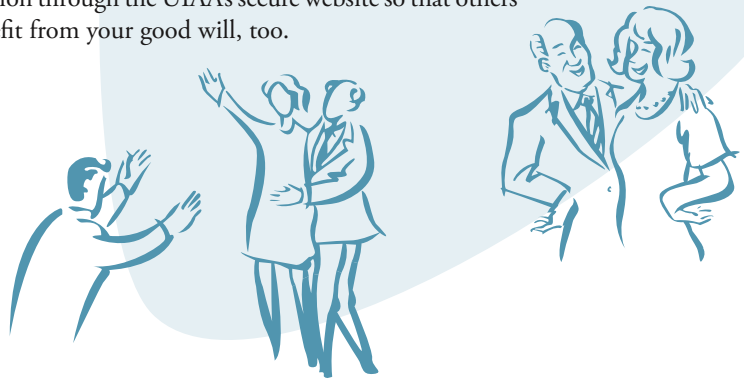
**\$1,500 for *Hospitality & Tourism Index*:** a bibliographic database covering scholarly research and industry news relating to all areas of hospitality and tourism. This collection contains more than 470,000 records from 500 titles, with coverage going back to the early 1960s. Topics include demographics and statistics, hotel management, food service and beverage management, travel and tourism, event management, gaming, international cuisine, law, market trends, research and more.

# Connect With Alumni Like Never Before



Visit the UIAA website at [www.uiaa.org](http://www.uiaa.org) and select "Online Directory" to begin using the most powerful tool in the history of the University of Illinois for connecting with other alumni. And better yet, you can make these connections on your own, whenever it's convenient for you. Search for former classmates; contact a professor; or, if you are a member of the University of Illinois Alumni Association, tap into a network of more than 40,000 alumni who have already indicated that they're willing to correspond with other alumni and undergraduate seniors (known as Collegiate Members) about their profession, place of business, city of residence, interest in being a mentor, and internship opportunities.

All alumni are encouraged to be a part of this great service, regardless of membership. Make sure you update YOUR information through the UIAA's secure website so that others can benefit from your good will, too.



College of Applied Life Studies

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