

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



SARA BENSON
Interim Head,
Scholarly
Commons



CORY BRADFORD
Illini
basketball's
No. 6
all-time scorer



FRANCINA DOMINGUEZ
Associate
Professor,
Atmospheric
Sciences



BRYAN DUNNE
Director,
Campus
Observatory



KATHY HUG
Assistant
Director
of Athletics/
Operations



FATIMA HUSAIN
Professor,
Speech and
Hearing
Science



TAMMEY KITKA
Associate
Director of
Artistic
Services,
Krannert
Center



BRETT KAPLAN
Director
of Graduate
Studies,
Comparative
and World
Literature



ATHOL KEMBALL
Professor
of Astronomy



TIM LIAO
Head,
Department
of Sociology



DR. GRACE PARK
Medical
Education
Facilitator,
Carle Illinois
College of
Medicine



ALEX WINTER-NELSON
Associate
Dean of
International
Programs,
College of ACES

ILLINI INSIDER

A weekly feature by **Editor Jeff D’Alessio**, featuring Round 7 of **masked Illini past and present** (above), enrollment stats, expert analysis and more.
Have something to submit? Email jdalessio@news-gazette.com.

WEEKLY PLANNER

Three mark-your-calendar virtual events with Illini connections coming to a computer screen near you:



The News-Gazette

THURSDAY

COVID-19 claimed 2020’s Ebertfest, but part of the show will go on the next five weeks in cyberspace.
The third annual Chaz & Roger Ebert Symposium kicks off Thursday with the first of three scheduled online panel discussions, entitled “The Movie Industry in a Time of Change.”
The 5 p.m. discussion, viewable via the event’s Facebook page, will be moderated by Ebertfest co-founder **Chaz Ebert** and director **Nate Kohn**.
The all-star lineup of panelists includes directors **Melissa Haizlip**, **Malcolm Lee**, **Mary Mazzio** and **Christine Swanson**; industry executives **Michael Barker** (Sony Pictures Classics) and **Neal Block** (Magnolia Pictures); SAGIndie Executive Director **Darrien Michele Gipson**; and entertainment lawyer **Nina Shaw**.

FRIDAY

On campus around this time four years ago when he was honored as the comeback guest during 2016 homecoming festivities, **Michael Strautmanis** will return to C-U this weekend — virtually.
The Chicago-based chief engagement officer for the Obama Foundation — who holds UI degrees from both the College of Media and College of Law — has been booked for the keynote speech at the NAACP of Champaign County’s annual Freedom Fund celebration, set for 6 p.m. Friday on Zoom.



The News-Gazette

MONDAY

Joining **Robert Jones** for the first installment of “A Great Conversation” — a new, live-streamed series of chats between the chancellor and a lineup of prominent guests — will be **Freeman Hrabowski**, president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.
Considered one of higher ed’s most innovative administrators, Hrabowski earned two diplomas from the UI — a master’s in math and a Ph.D. in education — to go with an honorary degree and a distinguished alumni award from the College of Education.
One of 2,076 Illini profiled on our Gies College of Business-powered UI at 150 & Beyond website, Hrabowski will speak about “The Empowered University: Shared Leadership in Challenging Times,” exploring “how university communities can support academic success by cultivating an empowering institutional culture.”

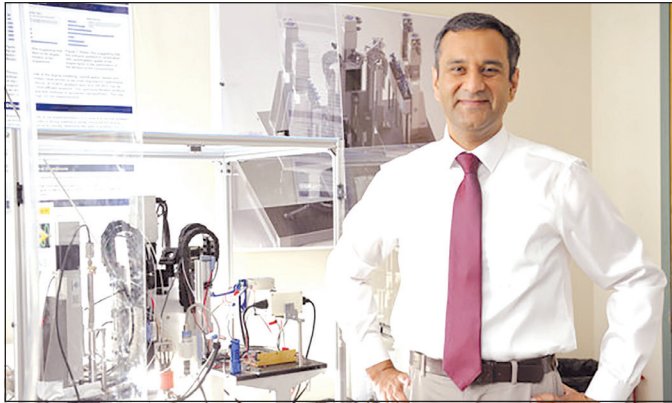


L. Brian Stauffer/University of Illinois

AN EYE ON AI

August brought news that UI teams had been tabbed to run two of seven artificial-intelligence institutes in the U.S., each receiving about \$20 million over five years, care of the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ¶ Less than two weeks later came word that four teams from the Grainger College of Engineering and the College of ACES would each get six-figure funding from the new Discovery Partners Institute for projects ranging from how to best use artificial intelligence in the construction industry to how much help autonomous robots could provide farmers in the fields. ¶ With technology about to go places only previously seen in the movies — and not everyone fully on board with artificial intelligence always being the right answer — we asked three UI professors: **What’s the one AI-related innovation that might seem far fetched now but could become reality by the turn of the decade?**

STEPHEN BOPPART (above)
Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering and executive associate dean at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine



Provided

“My general field is biomedical imaging, and here, AI with machine- and deep-learning are already making a significant impact. There have been several studies where AI algorithms have outperformed the human user at detecting and diagnosing disease.
“By 2030, we will all be convinced that AI will be better at finding features and patterns in images than what humans can do. Importantly, I believe we will all *trust* what AI finds and tells us.
“Today, scientists and engineers in the lab design different experiments to generate data, and AI is used to analyze images and data that come out of our tests. By 2030, **AI will actually be used to determine which experiments should be done, and the way the tests should be performed.** AI will inform us on how to do the experiment in the best way to get the results we are looking for.
“Today, we all hear a lot about AI, such as it being used in self-driving cars and the automated customer service we call into.
“By 2030, **AI will be so embedded in everything around us, we won’t even hear about it anymore.**
“When was the last time we talked about the transistor? Yet they are everywhere, in the millions and billions, in every electronic device we own. AI algorithms will be just as pervasive — and be everywhere in everything.”

ROHIT BHARGAVA

Founder professor in bioengineering

“AI will change how we tackle cancer. **Every aspect of it.**
“For example, today, we rely on the shape and structure of tissue to diagnose cancer.
“With AI powering new technologies, we will be able to make personalized diagnoses by considering the molecular makeup of cancer to provide rapid, highly effective treatments.”

BECKY SMITH

Associate professor of epidemiology

“I am very cautious about embracing AI because it has a tendency to catch patterns in data that we may not want it to catch — for example, it may recommend racially biased treatments because it was trained on racially biased data.
“However, with carefully curated data and a semi-supervised process, I think it will help with some of the data analytics needed to understand health at the population level. One aspect in which I find it useful is the ability to handle inter-related data.
“I’m not willing to propose a bold vision for how it could transform our research, though, because AI is one among a number of tools giving us an increased ability to analyze complex data. **I think each tool should be used with caution,** understanding its strengths and weaknesses.”



MAKING A LIST

2020 UI enrollment figures edition



TOP STATES

Of 52,331 total students (graduate and undergraduate), 29,984 list an Illinois address as their permanent home. The five most-represented states other than this one:
1. California: 2,354
2. Texas: 663
3. New Jersey: 584
4. New York: 434
5. Michigan: 353



TOP COUNTIES

Of Illinois’ 102 counties, 100 are represented in the UI student body, including nearby Vermilion (121), Piatt (99), Douglas (79), Iroquois (69) and Ford (48). The five with the most current Illini:
1. Cook: 12,796
2. DuPage: 3,422
3. Champaign: 2,822
4. Lake: 2,612
5. Will: 1,910



TOP COUNTRIES

9,363 members of the student body hail from a country other than the U.S. The top five:
1. China: 5,200
2. India: 1,320
3. South Korea: 814
4. Taiwan: 310
5. Indonesia: 130



TOP COLLEGES

The most popular UI colleges for the 33,492 undergrads enrolled at Illinois:
1. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 11,963
2. Grainger College of Engineering: 7,206
3. Gies College of Business: 2,989
4. College of ACES: 2,778
5. General Studies: 2,673



NOW PLAYING AT UOFI150.NEWS-GAZETTE.COM

Head to our special site for campus memories from 2,076 Illini, including three alums set to be honored at this month’s LAS Impact 2020: White House Science and Technology Director **Kelvin Droegemeier**, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist **Richard Powers** and emergency-medicine pioneer **Dr. Joel Geiderman**.