

## Applegate's Update

*It seemed more than appropriate and timely to share President Maimon's eloquent tribute to the Cubs in this Bulletin. May we all learn from the lessons their success is teaching us. Thanks, Elaine and go Cubs! –Jim Applegate*

### **The summer I watched the Cubs**

Elaine Maimon, Governors State University  
*Reprinted with permission*

My husband and two children are lifelong baseball fans. Philadelphia is our hometown, so we have always rooted for the Phillies. At games, I would cheer when they cheered, but I could never call myself a fan.

During the 2015 postseason, however, as a university president in Chicagoland – president of Governors State University to be exact – I became an obsessed, passionate, fanatical Cubs fan. Why? I learned about the "Curse of the Billy Goat." As an English professor long familiar with the evil of curses, from Grimm's fairy tales to Sondheim's "Into the Woods," I believe deeply that curses – all curses – must be broken.

Last fall, I avidly watched the playoffs, even once changing my workday red blouse to something in Cubbies blue so that I could help our team defeat the St. Louis Cardinals – and they did. Sound superstitious? Well, that's the thing about curses. You have to believe in them to believe they can be broken.

Last year, after St. Louis, the Cubs played the Mets for the National League championship. The Mets swept my team 4-0, confirming the "Curse of the Billy Goat." I found out to my horror that the Billy Goat has a name – Murphy. And there in New York was Daniel Murphy, who had not distinguished himself all season as a batter, but with the NL pennant at stake he hit home run after home run after home run against my team, easily becoming the MVP of the NLCS. Daniel Murphy is now the second baseman for the Washington Nationals. His batting average is .349. As September moves into October, I will be avidly watching the National League East race in the hope that the Nationals are defeated and do not play the Cubs. However, if it is a contest between Cubs and Nats, we may see a direct confrontation with the Billy Goat himself. For my July birthday, my daughter gave me a necklace that incorporates into a sterling silver charm a piece of an actual baseball thrown at a Cubs game. If that talisman continues to have power, the Cubs will break the "Curse of the Billy Goat" and win the World Series for the first time since 1908.



Through April, May, June, July, August and September, as I watched the Cubs on TV, I had much time for reflection as Jason Grimm studied the Friendly Confines and composed himself between pitches, and as Willson Contreras took yet another – always helpful – trip to the mound. These periods of contemplation got me thinking about Joe Maddon's leadership style and how it might apply to running a university.

In both instances, you are dealing with a group of talented individuals, each with unique strengths and ambitions. Leadership requires unifying this diverse group of players into one team. For the Cubs, the goal is winning the World Series. For faculty and staff at Governors State, the goal is student success and fulfillment. When I watch the Cubs, I can feel the team spirit emanating from the television screen. And on the two occasions this summer when I attended games at Wrigley, the team spirit was tangible.

Joe Maddon's management style has motivated thoughts about other more subtle connections. Maddon changes the Cubs' lineup and moves defensive players around, always keeping his eyes on the prize. If you play for the Cubs, you are expected to be both a specialist and a generalist. That's an important lesson for university faculty members and staff. Specialization is essential. Maddon will change pitchers to adjust to right-handed and left-handed batters. But he also expects his players to hit anywhere in the batting order and to cover unfamiliar defensive positions when needed. At universities, we will always need and honor special expertise, but in the 21st century we must expect openness to cross-training, to continuous improvement and to learning new ways of doing things.

The Cubs' 12-inning game against the Mariners on July 31 was a great example of flexibility, cross-training, and adaptation. (Yes, I was wearing my Cubs necklace until the very end.) That was the game when Travis Wood came in as a relief pitcher in the top of the sixth with the bases loaded and nobody out. He held the Mariners scoreless in that inning. In the top of the seventh, Maddon assigned Wood to left field, from where he ran into the ivy to make a dramatic catch – not something customarily on a pitcher's to-do list. In the eighth inning, Maddon returned Wood to the mound, where in the next two innings he recorded four outs, no hits and no runs. An additional flourish of versatility came when Jon Lester, usually a starting pitcher, pinch-hit and laid down a perfect squeeze bunt, scoring Jason Heyward and winning the game, 7-6 in the 12th. These performances are indicative of Maddon's expectation that his players be both specialists and generalists, demonstrating versatility to meet the team's needs.

The above paragraph illustrates my own lifelong learning because, two years ago I would not have had the vocabulary or the frame of reference to write it. More important, I would have missed entirely the analogy to university leadership. It may have been the "Curse of the Billy Goat" that motivated my initial interest in the Cubs, but I do understand that blue shirts and baseball necklaces do not really win World Series. If the curse is broken, Joe Maddon's leadership will have a lot to do with it. But there's another factor: investment. In 2009, when the Ricketts family bought the Cubs, they started investing in breaking the Cubs' curse. They have given President Theo Epstein and General Manager Jed Hoyer the resources to exercise their good judgment and build the best team in baseball. Throughout October, I'll be rooting for leadership, sound decisions and investment to pay off with a broken curse and a World Series victory.

## 60 x 2025

### **Four Illinois Regions to Receive Assistance to Better Match Education, Training Programs with Workforce Needs:** *With USA Funds' support, employers and educators come together to improve job readiness of working adults*

Illinois has been selected by nonprofit **USA Funds** to pilot a technical assistance program to align higher education programs in four Illinois regional communities with needs identified by local employers.

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** (IBHE) is partnering with the **Council for Adult and Experiential Learning** (CAEL), a national nonprofit leader in workforce and economic development, to provide technical assistance at no cost to the four Illinois communities within the coming year. USA Funds has awarded funding of \$238,110 for the initiative in keeping with its focus on promoting a smoother transition from education to employment in the 21st Century global workforce.

The **Higher Education Commission of the Future of the Workforce**, made up of government, education and business leaders, recommended, in a recent report, the need for state support for a comprehensive regional approach to address workforce needs with educational programs from certifications to graduate degrees.

"We invited Illinois communities with emerging or existing educational, economic and workforce development partnerships looking to improve the educational capabilities of their citizens for available work, to apply for this unique opportunity for expert assistance," **Dr. James Applegate**, IBHE executive director stated. "We are pleased to announce our plans to partner with Greater Egypt, Madison County, Northeastern Illinois, and Rockford regions to move forward with a successful strategy for alignment of workforce development with higher educational opportunities, especially for adults rooted in their communities who are looking to complete college or gain additional education and training."

"Technical assistance will be individualized to meet the needs of the community based on their existing college completion and workforce development strategies and activities." said **Joel Simon**, CAEL's vice president for Workforce and Economic Development. "Our goal is to equip them with the tools necessary to analyze industry needs, assess educational assets, and enhance cooperation between employers and educators."

"Unemployment remains persistently high in some communities at the same time that quality job openings go unfilled because jobseekers lack the necessary skills," said **Carol D'Amico**, USA Funds executive vice president, National Engagement and Philanthropy. "USA Funds is pleased to support this initiative to address this skills gap, while also supporting Illinois' efforts to increase the percentage of working-age adults with college credentials aligned to the needs of the state's workforce."



Top: L to R: Dr. Michael Welch, Rosalind Franklin University; Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, Danville Area Community College (retired); John Rico, Rico Enterprises; Anna Gatlin Schilling, USA Funds; Dr. James Applegate, IBHE; Representative Kelly Burke, 36th State District; President Christine Wiseman, Saint Xavier University; Jane Hays, Downey Group and IBHE Board member; and Amy Sherman, Council on Adult and Experiential Learning. Above left: John Rico and Alice Marie Jacobs. Above right: Anna Gatlin Schilling and Alice Marie Jacobs.



WIU VP Joe Rives and HCC President Rob Widmer

**Western Illinois University (WIU) and Heartland Community College** [have signed five agreements](#) that will allow students to concurrently enroll at both institutions and provide a seamless transfer from Heartland to WIU. "We are pleased to enter into these agreements with Heartland to provide expanded educational opportunities for their students," said **WIU President Jack Thomas**. "Western will provide premier, and unique, academic programs to further the success of Heartland students."

The Linkages Program allows students to take courses at both Western and a participating community college during their first and second year of college to ensure a successful transfer. The agreement includes all of Western's degree programs.

Western and Heartland also signed Bachelor of Arts in General Studies (BGS) and honors agreements. The BGS agreement renews a longstanding agreement that demonstrates the institutions' commitment to work together to provide quality, affordable education for college students. The agreement was first signed in 2008 and it provided Heartland students with maximum course credit transferability into the BGS degree program. Under the BGS agreement, Western grants full credit for all coursework completed in the associate degree, as well as a substantial number of other college credits that a student may have earned.

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Seven **McHenry County College (MCC)** students have been guaranteed automatic acceptance to the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** through participation in [Engineering Pathways](#). The program allows students to complete their two-year degree at the community college without doubt of continuing their education further down the road.

Students in the program have to maintain a 3.3 grade-point average in required courses with a 3.2 cumulative GPA to get the automatic transfer, according to the program rules.

MCC officials [announced the new partnership in January](#). MCC also works with the **University of Illinois at Chicago** and recently partnered with **Northern Illinois University** for the program, as well. A total of 20 students applied to the UIUC pathways program, 14 were accepted and seven enrolled, said **Interim Dean of the Engineering Department Maria Taydem**.

## Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

Three Illinois community colleges out of nine colleges from across the nation have been awarded prizes for exemplary efforts to promote sustainability education, practices, programs and training. The colleges are recipients of the **2016 Green Genome Awards**, part of a larger Green Genome initiative created by the **American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)** and its **Sustainability Education and Economic Development Center (SEED)**. More than 480 community colleges have joined AACC's SEED Center, pledging leadership in sustainability education and training and reaping the benefits. Winning colleges will each receive \$10,000.

The Illinois colleges recognized for their achievements are: **Lewis & Clark Community College** – Overall winner; **College of Lake County** – Governance award; **Lincoln Land Community College** – Community Engagement award.

The awards are based on SEED's *The Community College Green Genome Framework: Integrating Sustainability and Clean Technology Workforce Development into the Institution's DNA*. This free tool for colleges details the Green Genome framework, paths for success, and offers profiles of previous

winning colleges. The framework was developed by a national advisory panel made up of senior leaders from the **U.S. Department of Energy**, industry, national associations, and over 50 community colleges. AACC's SEED Center and the Green Genome Awards are supported by the **Kresge Foundation**. The Kresge Foundation works to expand opportunities for vulnerable people living in America's cities and promotes post-secondary access and success for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students.

## People in the News



A **Northwestern University** professor, with two international colleagues, was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**. **Sir Fraser Stoddart** is a Board of Trustees Professor and Director of the Center for the Chemistry of Integrated Systems.

"This is a tremendous honor for Professor Stoddart and Northwestern University," Northwestern **President Morton Schapiro** said. "Fraser is a pioneer in the fields of chemistry and integrated nanosystems and a member of an outstanding chemistry department."

The other laureates are **Jean-Pierre Sauvage** of the University of Strasbourg and France's National Center for Scientific Research and **Bernard "Ben" Feringa** of the University of Groningen (the Netherlands).

The laureates share the \$930,000 prize for the "design and synthesis" of molecular machines with controllable movements, which can perform a task when energy is added, the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** said. The academy said molecular machines "will most likely be used in the development of things such as new materials, sensors and energy storage systems."

This is the second Nobel Prize winner from Northwestern's department of chemistry and the tenth prize for the University in total.

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Lauren Burdette joined Illinois Secretary of Education Beth Purvis's team as Managing Director of Postsecondary Policy. She recently worked for a US Senator on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee where she worked on policies across the education spectrum with a focus on higher education access and completion for students with disabilities and low-income students. She began her career teaching 7th grade math and science in southwest Chicago.

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The **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)** Annual Conference will celebrate ["30 Years of Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success"](#) Oct. 8-10, 2016, in San Antonio. HACU will recognize ten honorees that have made significant contributions to improving opportunities for college students.

Among them is **Dr. Sharon Hahs**, recently retired president of **Northeastern Illinois University**, who is receiving the **HACU Lifelong Leadership Award** in recognition of lifelong leadership and advocacy for Hispanic higher education success.



Dr. Sharon Hahs

## IBHE Student Art Exhibition



### IBHE's Annual Student Art Exhibit: Call for Artists

IBHE is accepting submissions to its second annual long-term student art exhibition. This exhibition is open to all students at Illinois colleges and universities, regardless of program of study. Artwork will be selected by a committee of IBHE employees and will reside on loan to IBHE for one year. [Click here for a Call for Artists](#) with specifications and conditions. Please note that, due to display concerns, only wall art will be considered. Submissions are due November 1, 2016; selected works will be displayed at IBHE from January to December 2016.

Last year's exhibit featured 64 works of art from 17 Illinois colleges and universities. The exhibit was enjoyed by staff and hundreds of visitors, including **Governor Bruce Rauner**, legislators, and members of the media.



(Left, top to bottom: *Portrait of an Indian Boy* by Elisabeth Ann White, Principia College; *She Waits* by Katherine Clayton, Lincoln Christian University; and *The Rhythm of the Lemon Tree* by Kendra Stenger, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Right: *detail of Tree Bark 9* by Kathryn Kane, Oakton Community College)

## Other News

### Start an AmeriCorps Program at an Illinois College

[Funding is available](#) for agencies (including higher education institutions) interested in administering **AmeriCorps** programs in Illinois. AmeriCorps programs are designed to improve education and health care, protect public safety, safeguard the environment, provide disaster relief, and promote civic engagement in communities across Illinois.

"Each year, AmeriCorps members dedicate a year of their lives to get things done in their communities," said **Serve Illinois Commission Executive Director Scott McFarland**. "Members work with disadvantaged youth,

veterans and their families, people with disabilities, the homeless, and many other individuals who need a helping hand to succeed."

AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment and training. Full-time members are also eligible to receive a modest living allowance and health insurance. Members who successfully complete their service receive an educational award of up to \$5,815 to help pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay off student loans. If the member is 55 years or older, they may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child.

Only three mandatory webinars are left for schools interested in applying for funding:

- October 3, 2-4 pm
- October 5, 10 am-12 pm
- October 17, 2-4 pm

Webinar details and information about the application process are available at [Serve.Illinois.gov](http://Serve.Illinois.gov). Applications are due by December 2, 2016.

## Upcoming Events

### Get Ready to ShakeOut.

October 20, 2016 Register Now at [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)



The **Great Central U.S. ShakeOut** earthquake drill is a great opportunity for your entire campus community to learn, get prepared, and practice what to do during earthquakes ("Drop, Cover, and Hold On!"). More than 43 million people participated last year. All colleges and universities are encouraged to participate in ShakeOut on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 10:20 a.m. This Shakeout will be part of an international event involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several countries.

Last year there were many colleges throughout Illinois registered to participate in the ShakeOut, and we'd like your help to get many more people involved this year. If your school is not [listed](#), please register today at [ShakeOut.org](http://ShakeOut.org).

## In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

[Daily Herald](#): Oakton president donates raise for student scholarships, September 22, 2016.

[Catalyst Chicago](#): Undocumented students benefit most from free City Colleges program, September 28, 2016.

[Chicago Tribune/Daily Southtown](#): Grant allows study of workforce needs, September 30, 2016.

[Southern Illinoisan](#): SIU, partners secure funding to match job training with regions health care needs, October 2, 2016.

[Quincy Herald-Whig](#): Father, daughter encourage each other as they hit the books at JWCC, October 5, 2016.



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