

On July 13, Gov. Pat Quinn signed a major capital appropriation bill for the state of Illinois into law. It represents the first major, publicly funded capital initiative in the state in nearly a decade, and it is very welcome news for the University of Illinois' three campuses.

Appropriations for projects in the capital bill include the following:

- Universitywide, \$32.2 million for repair-and-renovation of facilities on all three campuses.
- Urbana, \$57.3 million to renovate Lincoln Hall.
- Urbana, \$20 million to construct a Post Harvest Crop Processing and Research Laboratory.
- Urbana, \$44.5 million to construct an Electrical and Computer Engineering Building.
- Urbana, \$60 million for the Petascale supercomputing facility is included in the state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) budget.
- Chicago, \$20.8 million to upgrade campus infrastructure and College of Dentistry modernization.
- Chicago, \$14.8 million to construct a National Rural Health Center at the UIC College of Medicine campus in Rockford.
- Chicago, a \$1.3 million DCEO grant for construction of a College of Medicine (COM) cancer research facility in Peoria, and a \$500,000 DCEO grant to the Heartland Foundation for costs associated with the construction of the cancer research center at the COM in Peoria.
- Chicago, a \$175,000 DCEO grant to the UIC College of Dentistry for a pediatric dental clinic.
- Springfield, \$4 million for renovation and construction of the Public Safety Building.

This much-needed capital bill was enacted, in no small part, due to the efforts of concerned alumni. Thanks to all of you who called your legislators, and/or sent e-mails and letters on behalf of your Alma Mater. We extend our special thanks to members of the Alumni Association-sponsored Illinois Connection network of more than 2,700 alumni, students and faculty members from the three campuses who closely monitor University and campus issues and serve as informed advocates for the University of Illinois.