



image by: bryan s. campbell

Illinois Insight

Welcome

Welcome to the first annual *Illinois Insight* policy forum! We hope you will leave tonight armed with new insights and information and energized to be an advocate for the University of Illinois.

To the long-time Illinois Connection Ambassadors in attendance, thank you for your dedication and past advocacy efforts. The 1,200 e-mails, letters, and phone calls you made to Illinois state legislators had a direct impact on the University's FY09 funding from the state, and you can be proud of that. For new members of the Illinois Connection network, I believe you will find your involvement to be not only of incredible value to the University, but also a benefit to you personally and professionally.

The Illinois Connection program channels the collective enthusiasm that alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends have for this incredible institution. The online network shares first-hand information on issues affecting the University. It also provides a mechanism for you to communicate easily and quickly with your elected officials.

Headlines around the country scream the news that the nation and its states and cities are facing an enormous financial crisis. As we gather here tonight, legislatures and agencies are in the process of allocating public funds. It is more critical than ever that decision-makers know that the University is a \$13-billion-a year economic engine that benefits the state, the nation and the world.

Together we can tell the U of I story in communities and capitols around the country.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the University of Illinois Alumni Association, thank you for your participation. We invite you to join us on April 1 for *University of Illinois Day in the Capitol*, an event that draws alumni and students from the Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield campuses to meet with legislators and show support for the great institution that is the University of Illinois.

Loren Taylor
CEO and President
University of Illinois Alumni Association

Tom Livingston
Chair, UIAA Advocacy Committee



Illinois Connection Advocacy Network
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION