

The
Illinois Club
http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org

Celebrating Over 100 Years at Illinois

2020-2021 Events

**Scholarship Awards
Event-Zoom**

March 6: 5-7 PM

**Third Thursday Speaker-
Zoom**

March 18: 5:15-6:15 PM
Spring Gardens by Pat Sollars

**Spring 2021 Tour-Zoom
UI Research Park**

April 10: 11 AM

**Spring Fling
Riggs Beer Company**

May 11: 5-8 PM

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Officers
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Scholarship Awards Event

Saturday, March 6, 2021

5:00-7:00 PM

On Zoom

The link will be sent out by email the week before the event.

Meet this year's scholarship award winners
and their families.

Help us celebrate their hard work and
learn about their accomplishments.

Due to COVID 19 we are unable to honor
them with our usual brunch,

but we hope you will show up and
honor them with your presence on zoom.

Each award winner will be making a presentation.

They deserve and appreciate your support.

The more faces the better.

**Our guest speaker will be Roy Campbell
Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Professor Emeritus
of Computer Science
at the University of Illinois**

There will be a brief business meeting at this event to elect our board for the 2021-2022 year.

The Illinois Club
P. O. Box 2782
Champaign, IL 61825
<http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org>

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What's new with The Illinois Club?

In spite of restrictions imposed by the current pandemic, The Illinois Club remains an active and vibrant group of people sharing and enjoying a wide variety of interests.

- **3rd Week Speakers**
An engaging speaker series on a variety of topics held on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- **Scholarship Awards-Saturday, March 6, 2021**
See details in this newsletter.
- **Spring Tour -Saturday, April 10, 2021**
Join us on Zoom as member Jenny Kim gives us a virtual tour of the Research Park at the University of Illinois.
- **Spring Fling-Tuesday, May 11, 2021**
COVID restrictions permitting we will gather for beverages and food at Riggs Beer Company in Urbana.

Even if you have not participated in a while, we invite you to join us by participating in one of our Interest Group meetings or special events. All are welcome. Check them out at www.theillinoisclub.org.



**Proposed Slate for the Illinois Club Board
2021-2022**

President.....Donna Offenbecher
Past President..... Carl Alstetter
Vice President.....Open
Recording Secretary.....Christina Myers
Treasurer.....Jenny Kim
Asst. Treasurer.....Bob Davis
Corresponding Secretary.....Alice Taylor
Budget Chair.....Kathy Valdés
Communications Co-Chairs.....Susan Haney & Christine Lyke
Interest Groups Chair.....Ann Long
Asst. Interest Groups Chairs.....Sally & Steve Zahos
Meeting Managers.....Jane Myers & Kristine Chalifoux
Membership Chair.....Judith Robinson
Asst. Membership Chair.....Kathleen Weibel
Scholarship Chair.....Joyce Wright
Asst. Scholarship Chair.....Matthew Macomber
Newcomers Chair.....Christina Meyers

*We will vote on the proposed slate at the Scholarship event on Saturday,
March 6, 2021. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that time.*

Appointed Positions

Historian.....Mary Hodson
Reservation Manager.....Lori Choquette
Tour Directors.....Pat Cardenas & Lynn Kelly
Webmaster.....Mike Haney
Assistant Webmaster.....Ann Campbell

2021-2022 Nominating Committee

Carrol Finnigan-Bunick
Ann Long
Linda Lopez
Kathy Valdés
Donna Offenbecher
Bob Davis

Meet Our 2020-2021 Scholarship Award Winners

Report from the Scholarship Committee



The Scholarship Committee has completed its work for 2020–2021. Our thanks to Sandy Camargo (Chair), Lori Choquette, Anne Heiles, Ann Long, Matt Macomber, Donna Offenbecher, Kathy Valdés, and Joyce Wright (Assistant Chair). Joyce and Matt will serve as Chair and Assistant Chair next year. Please contact Joyce if you would like to join the Committee.

We reconfigured our awards for this year. Our new offerings are the STEM Award, the Humanities/Social Sciences Award, the Isabelle Purnell Education Award, and the Global Focus Award. We are grateful to Judy Ikenberry for her continued support of the Judith Life Ikenberry Fine Arts Award.

The winner of the Isabelle Purnell Education Award is **Alexis Martinez**. **Alexis** plans to teach History in secondary school. She wants to inspire and challenge her students by teaching what she calls “holistic history.”

The winners of STEM Awards are **Jong Hwang, Ishita Rao, and Justin Wang**. **Jong** is majoring in mechanical engineering with a concentration on soft robotics. **Ishita** studies computer science and linguistics with an eye towards improving the human interface with AI like Alexa and Google Home. **Justin** also studies computer science but is majoring in Mathematics and Statistics as well. His research focuses on

making algorithms more functional, so that they can do more than advertise items someone thinks that we might want to buy.

The winner of the Humanities/Social Sciences Award is **Adem Osmani**. **Adem** is majoring in Political Science. His passion is Legal Humanities, an approach that studies the intersection of politics, culture, and history on the shape of the law.

The winners of Global Focus Awards are **Eddy Almonord** and **Sophie Luijten**. **Eddy** majors in Political Science and dreams of a career in immigration rights and helping immigrants negotiate what she calls the “bureaucratic labyrinth.” **Sophie** majors in Global Studies and Spanish and is focusing on climate change and ethical concerns relating to workers rights.

The winner of this year’s Ikenberry Fine Arts Award is **Vincent Chang**. The committee was blown away by Vincent’s talent and by his thoughtful and articulate ability to explain the abstract qualities of music to those of us who aren’t musically adept.

Each one of our winners is energetic, articulate, poised, and incredibly accomplished. We hope that you will attend our virtual Awards ceremony so that you can meet them.

Please consider contributing to The Illinois Club Scholarship Fund

The Illinois Club provides financial support to worthy University of Illinois students. You can donate securely online at <http://theillinoisclub.org/donations.php> OR by check made payable to **University of Illinois Foundation**. Mail to: PO Box 2782, Champaign IL 61825. Please write The Illinois Club on the memo line. Thank you for your support.