

Board Meeting
July 23, 2009

DESIGNATE THE ROBERT A. EVERS LABORATORY, ILLINOIS NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY, INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY,
URBANA

Action: Approve the Designation of the Robert A. Evers Laboratory, Illinois Natural History Survey, Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana has recommended the naming of a yet to-be-constructed building at 1909 South Oak Street, Champaign, as the Robert A. Evers Laboratory in recognition of Dr. Evers' service to the Natural History Survey and the University of Illinois. Dr. Evers (1912-1998) was a native of Quincy, Illinois. He obtained an M.S. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1941, and in 1946 he joined the staff of the Illinois Natural History Survey as a botanist. While on the staff of the survey he continued his graduate studies at the University of Illinois and was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 1951.

For nearly 30 years, until his retirement in 1976, Evers was a field botanist and zealous plant collector in Illinois, amassing a total of more than 116,000 specimens. These form the core of the Survey's herbarium (dried plant specimen collection), of which he was the curator. His field work resulted in a vast knowledge of Illinois' natural areas; the Robert A. Evers Land and Water Reserve at Siloam Springs State Park

recognizes his contribution to recognizing and protecting the State's most important remaining natural communities. He was an officer of the Illinois Academy of Science and held memberships in numerous scientific and honorary societies.

This new building will house the Survey's plant and fungus herbaria, along with those from the Crop Sciences Department and the Plant Biology Department, in state-of-the-art facilities that ensure the specimens' long-term preservation. In addition, it will have offices and laboratory space for many of the Survey's plant scientists, and provide work space for University faculty, students, and visitors using the collections. A further component of the building plan is a laboratory and offices for taxonomic database research, funded by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It is very appropriate to name this new building after Dr. Evers, who was so instrumental in establishing the collection and contributed significantly to the botanical reputation of the Survey and the University.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.