The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Synchrotron Radiation Center have worked together for almost 50 years. This period saw the creation of Tantalus as the first electron storage ring dedicated to synchrotron radiation research, the challenge and victory of the commissioning of the "new" storage ring "Aladdin", through the present with the beginnings of work at the SRC on accelerators to feed next-generation light sources of the future. In parallel there has been a continuous development of instrumentation including beamlines and electron spectrometers. Much has changed over this period, but during it all, SRC has been a highly productive center for research and education.

This talk will briefly outline UIUC's activities at the SRC, with emphasis on solid-state research using photoemission, the evolution of capabilities from the past, and what we hope to do in the future.