

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

2010

Office of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Development, Vice Chancellor for Research, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources (Office of the Chancellor)

Robyn Esaki Sato, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, Office of the Chancellor (2010 Recipient)

Robyn's commitment, passion and loyalty for UIC are only surpassed by her knowledge, excellence and respect for others. Her attention to detail is remarkable; she makes complicated procedures appear seamless. Robyn is the voice and face of UIC. She is the liaison with the University Of Illinois Board Of Trustees Office and communicates regularly with external constituencies. Robyn provides exceptional service to the entire UIC community and many come to her for advice, guidance and support. Access to excellence is not simply a phrase to Robyn; this goal is part of her being. She loves UIC, her work, the people and its mission. She truly is a campus treasure. Congratulations Robyn.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Juan Gutierrez, Police Officer, UIC Police (2010 Recipient)

Police Officer Juan Gutierrez has been a member of the University Police Department since September, 2006. Prior to joining our Department, Officer Gutierrez served as a highly decorated member of the US Army during his deployment in Operation Desert Storm. Upon returning, he was Honorably Discharged from his military service. Officer Gutierrez was selected the Officer of the Month several times in 2010. In one month he was in part responsible for five felony arrests. Also in 2010, he was responsible for the apprehension of a robbery offender who took a purse from a UIC victim at the CTA Halsted Street stop. This prolific criminal was later identified as committing many other similar crimes. His courage was again demonstrated when Officer Gutierrez responded to a CPD flash message for help that led to a foot pursuit and arrest of dangerous robbery offenders. In another incident, his attention to detail led to the felony arrest of two offenders who damaged UIC property in the NCAA Fields. These actions along with several others resulting in arrests demonstrate his service and dedication to the University. Officer Gutierrez also serves the department as a Field Training Officer, passing on his expertise to the next generation of police recruits ensuring that the University will, in the future, have a cadre of well-trained police officers. For his intuitiveness, perseverance, dedication and courage, we are proud to give Officer Gutierrez the UIC Award of Merit.

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Prudence Smith, Administrative Assistant, Contract Administration, Project Management: (2010 Recipient)

Prudence Smith has been in the Office of Project Management since 1993. She is responsible for all aspects of contract preparation, which includes advertisement, prequalification evaluation, bidding and document preparation. Prudence covers all aspects of this process diligently as she provides the department with oversight of contract administration that guarantees that contract documents will flow through final review and approval processes quickly. She is meticulous and customer service oriented both to her customers inside Facilities Management and to the contractors who work with UIC. For her excellent customer service and teamwork attitude, we are proud to give Prudence Smith the UIC Award of Merit.

Belinda Stewart, Building Service Worker, Physical Plant Administration (2010 Recipient)

As a building service worker, Belinda has performed janitorial services for Facilities Management for over twenty-five years. Belinda exhibits the kind of professionalism that one wishes were characteristic of all UIC's employees. She never lets the "not me" or the "another shift responsibility" syndrome get in the way of excellent service. Regardless of whose job it is, she takes each challenge as her own responsibility and follows through until it is resolved. She is helpful and diligent to prevent degradation of building cleanliness, going out of her way to provide special and "last minute" service to accommodate the Department's needs and requests. She helps to cultivate an environment in which all feel welcome and comfortable. For her exceptional service and dedication, we are proud to give Belinda Stewart the UIC Award of Merit.

Dennis Terpin, Industrial Hygienist, Environmental Health and Safety Office (2010 Recipient)

As an Industrial Hygienist since 2002, Dennis has shown consistent excellence in all aspects of his job. He is an expert at problem analysis, from formulating possible solutions and assisting with the implementation of the corrective action plans. In addition to his regular duties this past year, Dennis coordinated Mass Fit Testing for the Medical Center. Over 2000 Medical Center staff were fit tested to wear the N95 Respirator, protecting them from airborne illness. Respiratory fit testing was an urgent safety need during the 2009 – 2010 flu season and Dennis was instrumental in implementing this successful program. He also went above the call of duty as he volunteered during the 2009 Seasonal Flu and H1N1 Mass Vaccinations. Dennis is also the lead trainer for the Campus Emergency Response Team, employees from EHSO, UICPD, BRL, Public Affairs and University Health Service. These employees respond to chemical, biological and radioactive spills

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on campus. For his dedication, leadership and “can do attitude,” we are proud to give Dennis Terpin the UIC Award of Merit.

Healthcare System

Sandra Petty, Procedure and System Analyst III, Anesthesiology (2010 Recipient)

Sandra Petty has served the medical center for over 15 years with dedication, efficiency, and pride. She embodies those qualities of integrity, service excellence and accountability that we strive for in the medical center. She has demonstrated professionalism and respect in her encounters with patient, coworkers, faculty, residents, and other departments and outside vendors. She has done a tremendous job and always approaches her work diligently and conscientiously. Sandra has a strong commitment to personal development. She has increased her skill level and knowledge base by completing her bachelor’s degree in health care administration and will commence work on her master’s degree this fall. For these reasons, we are proud to give her the UIC Award of Merit.

Luis Rodriguez, Customer Service Representative III, Guest Services (2010 Recipient)

Others often refer to Luis Rodriguez as a “charmer”; however, Mr. Rodriguez’s boss Julio Becerra considers him as an impressive employee who treats everyone with respect, courtesy, and a caring manner. As a Customer Service Representative II working in Guest Services, Luis is an outstanding ambassador of the Medical Center whose creative problem solving skills and positive demeanor allow him to turn potentially dissatisfied patients into people who wouldn’t think of going elsewhere for their care. He has demonstrated great creativity in problem solving as one of the team leaders for the implementation of the new data based system used to monitor patient satisfaction. For his tireless dedication and commitment, we are proud to give Luis Rodriguez the UIC Award of Merit.

Ester Perez, Bilingual Secretary IV, Guest Services (2010 Recipient)

Nominated for her exceptional problem solving skills, dedication and her genuine care for the patients, Ms. Perez is a model employee that always performs her job with a smile on her face and one that truly represents and “Lives” the values of the Medical Center. Ms. Perez is the Secretary in the Department of Guest Services and one of her duties is dispatching interpreters to assist patients and their families. She routinely is called upon to manage conflicting priorities and does so with a practiced efficiency. Her colleagues in the department are highly appreciative of her efforts and strongly her nomination. For her dedication to service excellence, we are proud to award Ms. Perez the UIC Award of Merit.

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Estrellita Trinos, Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), Radiology (2010 Recipient)

Described as the “glue” that holds us together, Ester is in charge of patient care services in the Interventional Radiology Division of the Department of Imaging. Ester’s cheerful personality, work ethic, leadership, patient care and dedication make her an absolutely invaluable commodity to the staff. Her enthusiasm is contagious. She has either developed or has helped develop multiple projects and participated in their implementation which has contributed to the success of Interventional Radiology. A patient recently said “Throughout the whole process I underwent, I felt as if Ester was an angel that guided me through the whole ordeal; she was truly my guardian angel.” This speaks to Ester’s heartfelt devotion to her patients. Her dedication to excellence has earned her the UIC Award of Merit.

Amy S. Jones, Social Work Aide III, Division of Specialized Care for Children, Marion Regional Office (2010 Recipient)

Amy truly embodies DSCC’s mission, which is focused on public service, education and research as a basis to provide, promote and coordinate family centered, community based and culturally competent care for children with special health needs. Known for her technical skills as well as her enthusiasm, Amy S. Jones always acts in a manner that attests to her caring nature. A parent of one of Amy’s clients enumerates the many ways which Ms. Jones exemplifies the model caseworker: “She is never rude, never imposes, and is always there to care for her clients.” Serving a rural community, Amy also understands the importance of making the most of limited available resources. With traits like these, it is easy to see why Amy S. Jones is receiving the UIC Award of Merit.

Beena Mathew, Management Methods Analyst, Nursing Informatics Decision Support, Women and Children Services (2010 Recipient)

Beena is an outstanding employee who goes “above and beyond” the call of duty on a daily basis. She willingly accepts new assignments and offers assistance whenever she can. Steadfast in her cheerfulness, calm demeanor and dependability, Beena Mathew works tirelessly to achieve the goals of her division. Known as a team player, she is always willing to take on new responsibilities and learn new aspects of her job. For her dedication, we are pleased to give Beena Mathew the UIC Award of Merit.

Tom Guerrero, Business Manager, Nursing Informatics Decision Support, Women and Children Services (2010 Recipient)

With a reputation for going above and beyond, Tom Guerrero’s hard work has earned him the respect of his peers. As one said, “If you need something done right, go to Tom.” Recognized as an “extremely positive and dependable

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employee,” Tom willingly accepts every new assignment and offers his help whenever possible. His contributions go beyond the Department of Nursing to the entire medical center. He supervises the payroll activities of all civil service employees and ensures that each customer experience is positive. He works tirelessly to be sure that the medical center payroll is completed in a timely, efficient and accurate manner. For his dedication, we are proud to award him the UIC Award of Merit.

Katherine Pischke-Winn, Professional Development Coordinator, Nursing Administration (2010 Recipient)

Described, as “the epitome of what every nurse should aspire to be as they undergo expected transformation in their chosen profession,” Ms. Pischke-Winn is the Chief Magnet Officer and expert nurse development specialist. She is the proprietor of the nursing shared leadership model and has initiated integrative changes within our hospital organization. Her ultimate goal is for all patients to receive excellent care from excellent nurses. She is a contagious ball of energy. Kathy takes her “change agent” role seriously and literally. Instrumental in the development of the code of conduct at the hospital, Ms. Pischke-Winn is here to make change in a substantial way, as such; we take pride in giving her a UIC Award of Merit.

David Barishman, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department, University of Illinois Medical Center (2010 Recipient)

As the nurse manager for the Emergency Department (ED) at the Medical Center, David Barishman is an excellent clinician who understands the importance of being a manager who leads by example. He has done an outstanding job this past year. He consistently performs above expectations and inspires others to do so as well. He has an inquisitive mind and is always exploring method for improving operations. With Mr. Barishman’s leadership, the ED took its patient satisfaction scores from the lowest percentile to the 90th in a matter of months. Demonstrating hard work and enthusiasm, David is most deserving of the UIC Award of Merit.

Alex Guyan, Director of Patient Care Services, Neurosurgical Intensive Care & 6 East Neuro Step-Down Department (2010 Recipient)

“Call Alex Guyan at UIMC, he will know what to do.” A former patient at a community event uttered this sentence and it truly represents the effect Alex has had as a nurse manager in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit. The NSICU is a recognized leader in the medical center in patient satisfaction. Alex also scores high with his staff and peers. He is one of those truly kind and extraordinary individuals that is there for everyone. Alex exhibits leadership with a sense of

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purpose and professionalism that continues to influence his peers and staff he manages. He performs his job with creativity and enthusiasm and provides his staff opportunities to do the same. For these reasons he is most deserving of the UIC Award of Merit.

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Carl James Ulaszek, Technical Director, Department of Performing Arts, College of Architecture and the Arts (2010 Recipient)

As Technical Director in the Department of Performing Arts, Carl has displayed all the qualities that exemplify the UIC Award of Merit. In advancing the mission of UIC, he has demonstrated a high level of excellence, professionalism and university collaboration. Carl has served UIC with total dedication, loyalty and extraordinary service beyond the boundaries of his duties. He has literally worn at least four academic hats for his department serving as scene designer, lighting designer, and technical director and design instructor for 23 years. One cannot find enough superlatives to describe Carl's contributions to this university, the college and the department. We all have benefitted from his presence and his contributions. We are richer for having been the recipients of his work. Carl has earned the respect of his colleagues and students because he has given us a role model that we all can emulate. Carl is most deserving of the UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations Carl.

Peter Berg, ADA Technical Assistant & Training Specialist, Great Lakes ADA Center, Institute on Disability & Human Development, College of Applied Health Science (2010 Recipient)

Peter Berg is one of UIC's staunchest advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. As the Project Coordinator for Technical Assistance for the Great Lakes ADA Center, housed at UIC, Peter helps citizens in six states implement the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, responding each month to dozens of emails and hundreds of phone calls. A recent study of return customers even identified a "Peter Factor," mentioning Peter by name as a trusted advisor. Peter also serves as the Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Disability in Naperville. Beyond these accomplishments, Peter's stellar service since 2002 on the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities has been invaluable. Four years ago, he was instrumental in establishing UIC's new Disability Resource Center and his ongoing work as CCSPD co-chair and program organizer has helped change campus misperceptions about disability. Peter's work ethic is extraordinary. He responds to countless requests with sound judgment and a spirit of mutual cooperation. His sense of humor is only matched by his

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unswerving dedication to full equality for people with disabilities. Congratulations Peter.

William S. Bike,

Director of Advancement & Alumni Affairs Communication, College of Dentistry (2010 Recipient)

Bill is Director of Advancement and Alumni Affairs Communications for the UIC College of Dentistry. The College is fortunate to have an award-winning communicator such as Bill bringing its message to its alumni, faculty, staff, and students and to the public. Bill's duties have expanded beyond the realm of print communications over the 15 years he has been with the College to a diverse group of responsibilities: government liaison, overseer of the website, social media editor, alumni relations, board relations, and fundraising. Although his College duties have expanded greatly, he finds time to serve on several UIC-wide committees and is the chair of some as well. His contributions to the College and the University go beyond the call of duty and deserve to be recognized with the UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations Bill.

Patricia Garcia, Assistant to the Dean, Financial Affairs, College of Education (2010 Recipient)

Patricia Garcia has been a dedicated employee of the College of Education for twenty years. As Assistant to the Dean, Financial Affairs, Patricia oversees approximately \$5 million in grants and a state budget of more than \$9 million. The Dean, as well as Department Heads and Center Directors, seek her advice and guidance when preparing budgets and, more importantly, rely upon her vast knowledge of university policies and procedures to ensure we are always in compliance. Patricia is a trusted colleague and valued advisor who is quick to assume additional responsibilities. Always with an eye on improvements, she developed a comprehensive inventory control system that efficiently tracks all college resources and is diligent about assuring everyone reviews and updates their inventories each year. Her commitment to the college and to UIC is unparalleled. Congratulations Patricia.

Yin Zhong, Director of Departmental Business Affairs, College of Engineering (2010 Recipient)

Ms. Yin Zhong began working in the newly formed Department of Bioengineering in 1999. During its first 10 years the department grew from 3 to 13 faculty and research expenditures now exceed \$3 million per year. During this time, Yin was the only Finance/HR/Purchasing (8P-cards)/Payment/Reimbursement contact for

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the department. Yin's responsibilities included pre-award, post-award, RA/TA/GA/Student worker/Postdocs/Adjunct appointments and purchasing.

While managing all of this, Yin has been highly responsive to all those who depend on her; she has a perfect record of submitting every proposal from department faculty on time. To accomplish this, Yin has worked long hours and routinely accommodates faculty member's non-business hour schedules. For example, Yin helped a professor submit two NIH Challenge grants this past year while he was in Korea on sabbatical. This required that she work very late in the night to have a dialogue with him via e-mail. Yin anticipates changes in how business will be done and takes the initiative to prepare appropriately. Before Banner went live in 2003 (right after Christmas), Yin thoroughly studied the Banner manual over the holiday break and effectively and willingly became the College of Engineering (COE) "Banner help desk" for the ensuing 2 years. She has informally trained many of the COE staff on using Banner, thus contributing to their professional development and growth. Because of her high level of competence, willingness to take on new challenges, strong work ethic, positive, enthusiastic attitude as a team player and leader when needed, and overall excellence in all aspects of her work performance and position responsibilities, Yin is eminently deserving of the UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations Yin.

Stacie Williams, Assistant Dean for Student Services, Honors College (2010 Recipient)

As Assistant Dean for Student Services in the Honors College, Stacie Williams has served the college and the university with her attentive, informed, dedicated advising, attention to detail, and sound understanding of policy. She has also displayed exceptional ability to lead teams in bringing off large complex events and projects and a prodigious capacity to solve problems with the backing of sound data and hard-earned insight. Leading the implementation of the Honors College holistic admissions process and managing every college program at one time or another are just two of her many accomplishments. She has mentored countless students and contributed to the success of her fellow staff, while working within the college and across the campus to promote excellence. Congratulations Stacie.

Silvia Victoria Solis-Antilaf, Assistant to the Head, College of Liberal Arts and Science (2010 Recipient)

As Assistant to the Head, Silvia Solis has displayed an unusual combination of skills and qualities that are vital to the smooth functioning of the Chemistry Department. Through many years of knowledge and experience, Silvia has developed a thorough understanding of how the Department, College and University function. Equally important, she has great empathy and understanding

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of people, allowing her to understand the viewpoints of all participants in a conflict. These attributes enable her to solve small problems before they become large ones, and to bring a level of quiet professional competence to genuine crises. She is equally comfortable in dealing with undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and administrators. Silvia has learned the jobs of everyone on the staff, allowing her to step in wherever she is needed. Silvia has a good business sense, which she routinely applies to the best interests of the Department. Her loyalty to the Department and her fellow workers are evident every single day

Stephanie Joyce Whitaker, Coordinator of Research Programs, College of Liberal Arts and Science (2010 Recipient)

Stephanie Whitaker is the Coordinator of Research and Development for the Department of Political Science, a position she has held since 2003. With the staff reductions in which half of our support staff has been terminated, Ms. Whitaker has now added the duties of Undergraduate Advisor. She is an amazing employee—dedicated innovative, talented, smart, hard working, dependable, thorough, organized, caring, and personable. She has become an indispensable part of the Political Science Department staff. Stephanie wears many hats. She is the Department's purchasing manager in addition to her jobs as coordinator of faculty grants, research program initiatives, department and alumni events, and gift fundraising. She will now be adding to these maintaining all of the undergraduate student records, undergraduate adviser, supervising the front office and being the face of the department for most students, guests and alumni. Stephanie is someone who is truly committed to UIC, its mission and its community. She received her undergraduate degree here, and after she worked in the private sector and in government for a time, she returned to UIC and has served for 17 years. Prior to her position in the Department of Political Science, she ably served UIC from 1993-2000 as a Special Assistant to the Associate Chancellor for Development. There she managed the office's \$2.6 million budget and oversaw the operation of academic professional and support staff. She was also the liaison between the campus, the University of Illinois Foundation, and the philanthropic community. In between her position in the Chancellor's office and the one she currently holds in Political Science, she took a leave to be a full-time mother to her two growing sons. It is notable that during 2001-2003 she worked with the Office of the Association Chancellor for Community Relations and the mayor's office of Human Relations to develop the annual month-long citywide celebrations of Unity Month held each September. It is a measure of her commitment to diversity that she undertook this important work. Ms Whitaker is a creative innovator who insists on excellence. She has provided major innovations to the department including: new budget tracking methods, development planning, and physical space coordination.

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Quite simply, Ms. Whitaker is a first-class employee of this university. She is very determined to get the job done right and she expects that of others. She is very enthusiastic about every task in her job, even the most mundane. I have observed and had the opportunity to work with numerous staff people in my forty-four years at UIC. Ms Whitaker is surely one of the very best. She arrives early, stays late, takes the initiative, goes beyond what is expected, and does so with a friendly, open, approachable style. Without doubt, Ms. Whitaker is someone UIC should honor with the Award of Merit.

Roberta Dupuis-Devlin, Archival Operations & Reference Specialist, University Library (2010 Recipient)

Roberta almost always is present when some moment of importance takes place at UIC—from a visiting US Vice President to Peregrine Falcon hatchings. She is the person who captures the visual record of our history and preserves these pictorial documents that will tell the story of the University of Illinois at Chicago to future generations. Roberta has been the campus's official photographer since 1990, and has worked for the University Library since 2004. One colleague described her "special magic" at events this way: "Her presence immediately puts folks at ease, she has the gift of making folks smile...and that sure comes in handy for taking photos! She speaks kindly, moves people around, and before you know it...everyone is smiling as one big group of wonderful staff." Photo Services and the Library together have vast holdings of film photography that must be managed, repaired, and preserved, and digital photographs that must be stored in a secure electronic environment. Roberta's skill and experience have been invaluable in preserving images in the university archives and the Library's historic image collections. UIC is very fortunate that Roberta is a thorough, dedicated expert we can rely on to take and save thousands of pictures worth millions of descriptive words of our university.

Lori L. Young, Ambulatory Care Supervisor, College of Medicine – Rockford (2010 Recipient)

I am pleased to nominate Ms. Lori Young for the UIC Award of Merit. Ms Young is an Ambulatory Care Supervisor at our University Primary Care Clinic in Rockton. She has been a dedicated employee at the College for almost twenty years; first serving as a Medical Radiographer I. Ms Young has been the manager at the Rockton Clinic since March of 2001. I believe Lori Young is a standout employee who truly exemplifies the mission, vision and values of UIC. She is a clear choice for the 2010 MERIT award.

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John E. Brach,

**Director of Institute for Health Research & Policy, School of Public Health
(2010 Recipient)**

Since 1994 John Brach has been an exemplary employee on the UIC campus. Wherever he has worked he has brought his enthusiasm, determination and problem-solving skills to improve campus functions. John has mastered the art of human resources administration by combining his subject matter knowledge and technical savvy with excellent communication skills and great judgment to make personnel decisions that benefit all those involved. John gives more than is asked of him on a daily basis; he brings his best to work every day and is always ready to help out when a colleague needs support. John does more than provide human resource administration; he is the human resource that we rely on for his encyclopedic knowledge, sound judgment and good cheer.

**David M. Taeyaerts, Director, Office of Campus Learning Environments,
Office of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs (2010 Recipient)**

In his role as Director of the Office of Campus Learning Environments, Dave has proven his commitment to provide UIC with learning environments that are innovative, sophisticated and designed with respect for the user. He has earned the admiration of colleagues and peers for his positive energy and enthusiastic work ethic. Since working at UIC, Dave's cooperative team-approach to projects has helped UIC to construct and re-design spaces that are leading edge and to LEED standards. Dave works well with colleagues and is always eager to add his knowledge to projects. His professionalism, perspective and focus have contributed to the successful creation of first-class classrooms and study spaces for our faculty and students. Dave has helped increase the level of professionalism in his office and subsequently throughout campus. He sets the bar high and then exceeds it with his resourceful approach to construction and re-designs. He very effectively works with faculty and staff to help determine the best use of dollars so that the academic needs of campus departments are met and the projects are within budget. Dave's tireless spirit and standard of excellence make him an excellent recipient of the UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations, Dave.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Rolanda Geddis, Housing Officer, Campus Housing (2010 Recipient)

Rolanda Geddis manages the East Area office, the most critical area of residence hall operations on the east side of campus. Her contributions to campus housing administration have been so very valuable, but at the same time, she has played a direct role with students, who have been the beneficiaries of her knowledge and experience. This individual has held several completely different jobs in campus

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housing—working on both sides of campus. What has so impressed her supervisors and co-workers is her ability to juggle so many diverse, unpredictable and at times conflicting housing and residence life issues. She is able to handle these various situations with a diligence and efficiency that is quite remarkable. She has indeed been “unflappable.” This individual’s leadership abilities, enthusiasm and work ethic have been repeatedly praised. What is so truly remarkable is that these characteristics have been sustained over many years. Whether she is resolving difficult housing dilemmas, updating and developing manuals or handling the front desk receptionist duties, she displays a pleasant demeanor and an always helpful attitude. Students and fellow housing staff have received a consistently high degree of quality customer service from her. As one reference concludes, “UIC is a better and friendlier place because of staff like her.”

Patrick Koerner, Academic Skills Specialist, Academic Center for Excellence (2010 Recipient)

Patrick Koerner has a strong passion for student success and has become an invaluable asset to his staff. He is a gifted instructor who has redesigned and created new courses in his department. He is a reading specialist who has taught academic and professional writing for both native English speakers and international students. His colleagues marvel at his ability to come up with innovative ideas in the area of learning assistance. His “Study Tip of the Week” is now sent to over 800 students each week and forwarded by Liberal Arts and Sciences advisors and others to additional students. He has designed an academic success workshop series for the UIC baseball team. More recently, he has added an additional online resource for students—a live question and answer service for study strategies. It is not unusual for staff to turn to him for new ideas and approaches. Besides being an excellent writer and innovative instructor, this individual has been called by his colleagues “approachable” and “supportive.” He is also known for his good nature, sense of humor and generosity. He frequently receives messages of appreciation from both students and staff. He has built an especially strong bond with students in his courses and workshops, and it is common to see many students taking advantage of his office hours.

University Administration

Laurie Mueller Pitner, Executive Director University Payroll, Office of Business and Finance Services (OBFS) - University Payroll (2010 Recipient)

As the Executive Director of University Payroll and Benefits, Laurie continually demonstrates an overall excellence in all aspects of her work. University Payroll & Benefits has the critical responsibility of assuring accurate and timely distribution of payroll and skillful administration of benefits to the many thousands

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of University employees. With each payroll comes a host of deductions that must carefully be accounted for and remitted to taxing authorities. Making sure all of this happens with pinpoint accuracy each and every pay cycle takes tremendous expert knowledge, dedication to task and strong management skills—all things that Laurie demonstrates with excellence, each and every day. Whether she is dealing with a simple employee inquiry regarding a payroll issue or a highly complex payroll matter involving a large group of employees, Laurie consistently demonstrates an outstanding commitment to serving all customers of University Payroll & Benefits in a thoughtful and timely manner. Laurie is committed to fostering individual development and professional growth across her entire staff. She promotes positive staff morale through thoughtful leadership, a strong sense of teamwork and continuous attention to her unit's work environment. As a seasoned leader, Laurie knows that it takes people to perform the many tasks necessary to produce our payroll—and positive morale among her staff can lead to greater job satisfaction and productivity for all involved. Laurie solidly meets or exceeds the criteria for this award. Congratulations Laurie.

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2009

From the Offices of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Research, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, & Vice Chancellor for Development there is one recipient. (Vice Chancellor of Human Resources)

From Office of Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

Maria Sabacan (2009 Recipient)

Maria exemplifies the criteria that the UIC Award of Merit was meant to recognize. In her role as the HRIS Technical Specialist, Maria has a great opportunity to work with and help others throughout the University. She is often relied on for her knowledge, skills, and professionalism. No matter how busy the day or how heavy the workload, Maria's customary greeting is always accompanied with a smile. Having worked on multiple projects over her career at UIC, Maria has proven herself as an invaluable resource. Recently, she had been entrenched in the task of developing, testing, training, and implementing the new HR Front End system. Her knowledge of how the campus operates, technical skills and overall concern for the user community, proved her to be an indispensable member of the project team. With her hard work and diligence Maria Sabacan sets the bar remarkably high for others, and is looked at as a model employee. She acts as a mentor to others, sharing her knowledge and understanding of our practices, in an attentive and caring manner. She is a strong and capable leader, yet comfortable in her own abilities to follow when necessary without criticism or objection. Maria's sound judgment, strength of character, loyalty and independence are characteristics one hopes to find in all our employees. Congratulations Maria.

From the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs there are twelve recipients.

Norman Altman (2009 Recipient)

As administrator for over 22 years in the entirely grant-funded Community Outreach Intervention Projects in the School of Public Health, Norman's dedication and expertise have been key to his unit's founding, longevity, and performance. He is a master at managing grants and contracts, negotiating the university's various systems, and working with business and community-based organizations. He is also a consummate team player sought out by many others on campus who value his advice. Norman makes himself available to assist in solving problems; regularly volunteers for assignments others avoid; and produces the highest quality work. His talents and unflagging energy have enabled the Project

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to provide HIV prevention and treatment services across Chicago to thousands of highly vulnerable people. Norman is a credit to UIC and richly deserving of the Award of Merit. Congratulations Norman.

Mary L. Berta (2009 Recipient)

As the department business manager, Mary has brought a new level of efficiency, accountability and accuracy to the Department of Occupational Therapy in her four years there. Drawing on experience gained from 12 years at the university library, she is the “go-to” person who knows how to navigate university systems while taking great care to comply with all requirements. She is conscientious, ethical and thorough in her work, unfailingly setting and achieving the highest standards. She has served the college and campus on numerous committees and working groups. As one faculty member noted, “Mary is always on top of things and does her work with a smile. She seems to know what I need before I ask.” She is a valued member of the department, college and campus. Congratulations Mary.

Stephanie Clarke Chamberlin (2009 Recipient)

As the Assistant to the Head, Stephanie administers the day-to-day operation of the Physics Department. She is involved in all aspects of the department’s educational and research mission and interacts on a daily basis with a large and diverse group of faculty, staff and students, always exhibiting a professional “can do” attitude. Stephanie extends herself in ways far beyond what her position requires while at the same time completing her tasks swiftly and professionally. Over the past year Stephanie helped draft the winning proposal to bring an international conference on the international linear collider to the Chicago area, and specifically to the UIC campus. For the second year in a row she also edited and published the department’s newsletter. The newsletter received praise for both format and content and went so far as to generate donations to the important causes it promoted. Stephanie is obviously an enormous asset to UIC. Congratulations, Stephanie.

Diane Chin (2009 Recipient)

Diane Chin is the associate director of a unique undergraduate civic engagement program, the Chicago Civic Leadership Certificate Program, or CCLCP. This two year, four-course program invites incoming UIC students to focus on writing, psychology or sociology while apprenticing with local community partners for practical field experience. Diane uses her many talents to manage budgets, identify funding sources, conduct research, train teaching staff, produce public relations materials, and evaluate the success of the program. She receives rave reviews from two different communities related to CCLCP. Community partners

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from as many as 29 organizations have benefitted from their connection to UIC thanks to Diane's efforts. In addition, the students who have received certificates from CCLCP and their families sing Diane's praises because this program provided important professional and personal opportunities for them. In working at the intersection of the academy and the community, Diane Chin actively embodies the UIC Great Cities mission. Congratulations Diane.

Jennifer M. DeLago (2009 Recipient)

Jennifer DeLago has served the College of Education as an advisor and administrator, sharing her expertise on many fronts. Jen has always been the go-to person, willing to take on new responsibilities and go the extra mile to help students, faculty, and staff. She is an effective team member who works collaboratively with the staff in the Office of Student Services, at the college and university. Jennifer has done a superb job in developing efficient processes to handle the academic work of undergraduate admissions and for overseeing students' academic progress. Jennifer does her work accurately and efficiently. She is proactive and keeps on task until her work is completed. As Coordinator of Advising and Registration, she is diligent in the administrative and counseling aspects; anticipates and solves problems and shows superior judgment in dealing with students. Jennifer provides a caring atmosphere, deals with problems and sensitive cases with integrity and professionalism. She is careful and thoughtful in her responses. Jennifer's interpersonal and communication skills are excellent. She is helpful and gives accurate information and is instrumental in resolving a wide range of issues. She has gained the trust of students, faculty and staff. Jen is a very smart, talented, dedicated staff member, and is deserving of this recognition. Congratulations, Jen!

Julie Duignan (2009 Recipient)

As Administrative Assistant to Dean Judith Russi Kirshner in the College of Architecture & the Arts, Julie plays a vital role in assisting the Dean and other senior college administrators in the effective and efficient management of day-to-day college affairs. Julie is sensitive to the multiple constituencies with whom the Dean's office interacts and is unfailingly courteous, cheerful and diplomatic with faculty, students, staff, and donors and other external partners to the College. Her sense of discretion and confidentiality is unerring. Julie has been an outstanding leader on a number of special projects including the College's fundraising benefit for student scholarships, the tribute to acclaimed architect Walter Netsch presented at the 2008 College of Architecture & the Arts commencement, and the management of the campus Art Study Collection. Julie is dedicated and strongly committed to the College. She deserves this recognition. Congratulations, Julie!

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Dale Lorens (2009 Recipient)

Dale's commitment to UIC and her continued efforts to serving others make her a role model among employees. Dale is priceless to the faculty, staff and students in the College of Medicine. She is highly respected by all, and praised for her initiative and professional behavior. Dale draws people to her with her sincere empathy and big heartedness. Dale combines creativity and initiative with sensitivity to students to create forums for their concerns, continually asking students their thoughts and feelings before making decisions. She empowers students to take ownership of the solutions to their own problems, which certainly teaches more and leaves a more lasting impression. Despite her hectic schedule and the nearly unattainable deadlines she must contend with, her door is always – literally and figuratively – open. Dale is much more than Associate Director of our longest, largest, and most important course, Essentials in Clinical Medicine. She is our teacher, mentor, friend, parent and leader. Congratulations Dale.

Kimberly Neumann (2009 Recipient)

Kim is the Director of the Office of Programs and Academic Assessment that reports to the Vice Provost for Planning and Programs. Her nominators say that she “represents the best that UIC has to offer”. What sets Kim apart is her unparalleled knowledge of the campus's academic structure, and guidelines; her long institutional memory; and her superb attention to detail. Kim also demonstrates a rare ability to infuse all of these assets with clarity, creativity, and humanity. Anyone who has ever had the opportunity to work with Kim quickly comes to realize that her contributions to our academic enterprise are extensive. While meeting the daily challenges of her job, she works tirelessly to improve the campus's core systems. For example, she was responsible for identifying, adapting, and implementing the Course Request System, UIC's course data system, which has proven to be a vast improvement over the previous system. Kim also served as a UIC representative on the UI-Integrate Project to implement BANNER. Kim participates in these endeavors because she sees the big picture and understands the interconnectedness of everything academic. Given the size and complexity of UIC that is no small skill. In all her work, Kim embodies in equal measure the role of leader, collaborator, and teacher. She is patient, generous, and willing to share her knowledge. The campus is fortunate to have Kim Neumann. Congratulations, Kim.

Rosa Ortiz (2009 Recipient)

Rosa Ortiz serves as the Business Manager for the Department of Pharmacy Administration and also serves as the main project manager for Dr. Bruce Lambert's Center for Education on Research and Therapeutics, which is funded by a 4 year, \$4 million grant. She is the sole administrative support person for the

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department and her expertise in financial matters is exemplified by her consummate management of this grant and the other financial matters of the department. Rosa is creative and innovative. She was an integral contributor to the remodeling of the college and she had the department up and running within days of the catastrophic fire that struck the College last winter, single-handedly securing office within a week for displaced faculty members and graduate students. Rosa has keen insights and vision. She is a motivated, life-long learner. And she commits to excellence in all that she does. Rosa Ortiz is truly deserving of the Award of Merit. Congratulations Rosa.

Bharathi Reddivari (2009 Recipient)

Bharathi Reddivari adheres to the highest standards for clinical research and completes all tasks in a meticulous and timely fashion. As Research Specialist in Health Science, she performs at a level above and beyond the call of duty and is described as unfailingly reliable and devoted to her mission. Bharathi is an instrumental member of the Clinical Research Program of the Section of Hematology/Oncology. For the past nine years she has ably conducted clinical trials, working closely with clinical investigators. She has gained national prominence for her exceptional ability to recruit and retain patients on high priority studies. She is recognized for overseeing the enrollment and follow-up of the largest cohort of minority patients on the Nation Cancer Institutes high priority intergroup prevention study known as SELECT. Ms. Reddivari has demonstrated exemplary leadership and an ability to inspire other team members. Bharathi's efforts have secured valuable resources for the University's research program. She is experienced and capable and exhibits extraordinary tenacity and perseverance that few can match. Congratulations Ms. Reddivari.

Demetria Ward-Kato (2009 Recipient)

Demetria's work ethic and work product are of the highest quality, but what really distinguishes her is the "heart" she puts in her work. As Graduate School Specialist, Demetria cares deeply about individuals who are unable to represent their own interests. She has a bright smile, enthusiastic personality, and pleasant determination. Demetria is a leader in the Graduate College. She is largely responsible for the day to day operation of the Graduate College Lincoln Fellowship Program and the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship Program. She took it upon herself to organize the "Miracle on Taylor" charity program, which provides supplies, support and toys to families during the holidays. Demetria's promotional efforts have increased participation in the program and as a result the numbers of families served has also increased dramatically. Demetria is

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concerned with the collective, not simply her individual success. Her contributions to UIC's community are highly meritorious. Congratulations Demetria.

Bil Schmilke (2009 Recipient)

Bill Schmilke is the "go to" guy in Chemical Engineering. As the Assistant to the Head, Bill effectively wears many hats: HR Manager, Grants Manager, Accounts/Financial/Business Manager, and Operations Manager to name a few. His dedication to excellence and leadership is exemplified in the quality of his work. In particular, Bill cares immensely for the welfare of the students and this is seen on a daily basis as he goes the extra mile to help new and returning students resolve problems like finding an apartment and adjust to the university community. Bill never hesitates when asked to participate in departmental, college, and campus initiatives like the UI-ERA team to implement a new electronic pre-award system, or the OBFS Advisory Committee, or the OBFS Bringing Administrators Together Conference where Bill delivered a seminar called "A Day in the Life of a Business Manager." Bill's leadership, commitment and dedication to the campus are why he is receiving the 2009 UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations Bill.

From the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services there are four recipients:

Kary Raines (2009 Recipient)

Mr. Raines began his career at the University 35 years ago as a food service laborer in what is now known as Environmental Services. His dedication, desire to learn, and sound work ethic earned him numerous promotions. He is now Director of Environmental Services, a valued member of the Facilities Management administrative team and serves on multiple committees at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Kary oversees one of the largest departments within the Medical Center while providing the highest level of services and customer satisfaction to patients and staff. He displays superior knowledge in his role and ensures the effective use of manpower, equipment and facilities required to adhere to strict regulatory guidelines. He is extremely conscientious in his work and efficient in completing tasks. Kary has achieved a reputation as one of the elite managers in the critical field of healthcare management. Mr. Raines is a well rounded, hardworking and dedicated individual who is highly respected and most deserving of this 2009 Award of Merit. Congratulations Kary.

Margarita Guerrero (2009 Recipient)

Margarita has been a valued member of UIC for nearly 30 years and has worked in various departments, advancing her career at UIC. Margarita is a special employee

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and always greets people with sincerity and kindness. Margarita is charismatic, pleasant and cooperative. She displays attention to detail in completing her daily work, does what it takes to get the job done, and always anticipates what might be needed next. She never fails to meet project deadlines and is punctual and eager to learn. Her work varies from providing computer based support for all phases of a simple construction project, to preparing multi-million dollar contracts for multiple contracts. She is very thorough and is always seeking a better way to do her job. Margarita is courteous, conscientious and considerate of her fellow University employees. Margarita has a wonderful ability to connect well with those around her. Her diligence and knowledge are certainly an asset to UIC. Congratulations Margarita.

Richard Rohloff (2009 Recipient)

Mr. Rohloff consistently displays a creative, versatile approach to projects, resulting in major gains. He orchestrates highly successful programs and views problems as opportunities. Richard has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments since coming to UIC five years ago, contributed to every major project within the department, revamped programs, started new ones, saved the department money and brought in new funds through grants. Mr. Rohloff created an internal web site, wrote a program to track medical absences, created a process to electronically authorize and track expenditures, set up a program to track P-Card purchases, automated the CLEARLY crime reporting process, wrote University policies for Building Access, Emergency Evacuation, Campus All Hazards Plan and an internet Emergency Guide. He established a program to track overtime which saved the Department \$20,000 in the first month of operation. He contributed heavily to Police Department's goal to become nationally accredited. After a number of computer thefts, Richard used captured video images to create an Investigative Alert that was widely circulated to surrounding colleges and universities, resulting in the arrest and successful prosecution of the offenders in Joliet. Recently he generated grant requests to federal and local agencies totaling \$1.8 million dollars. He regularly hosts small office celebrations and creates awards and citations to acknowledge the accomplishments of his staff at his own expense, fostering a cohesive working environment. Mr. Rohloff is an exceptional multi-tasker with excellent organizational skills. He willingly accepts difficult assignments that are frequently outside of his area of responsibility and is always available for assignment. Congratulations Richard.

Elizabeth Rogers (2009 Recipient)

Elizabeth Rogers has worked as a Cashier 1 for Parking Services for twelve years. During this time, she has displayed many of the attributes that not only make her a

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great employee, but also exemplifies the qualities of the Award of Merit. In her work environment, Ms. Rogers comes into contact with a variety of visitors. She is always professional, patient, responsive, and consistently friendly to all customers. Because of her peaceful demeanor, she also has the unique ability to project a sense of calm during chaotic situations. She has been a very valuable customer service resource for the department. Also, despite the pressure she may experience on a daily basis, Elizabeth has always been able to reconcile her transactions daily and takes care in submitting her paperwork. This has made her one of the most accurate cashiers in Parking Services. She is always willing to help others and will work in the most challenging situations. Elizabeth Rogers epitomizes the best of UIC and deserves this recognition. Congratulations Elizabeth.

From the office of the CEO, UIC Healthcare System there are ten recipients: Sheri Wylie-Buergel (2009 Recipient)

As a Management Methods Analyst, Sheri is considered a great asset to the department of nursing. She is an exceptional employee who exceeds in her daily responsibilities and brings great enthusiasm and energy to everything she's involved in and is always very professional. Sheri provides excellent customer service, treats everyone with the utmost respect and is very efficient in problem solving. As a co-worker, she demonstrates excellent teamwork and enhances the work environment by giving 100% of herself. Sheri is also known for her positive attitude and willingness to help outside her job duties. She is a member of the Employee Recognition Committee and a volunteer for the "Miracle on Taylor Street", a holiday gift giving program for the less fortunate in the surrounding community, spending many hours working to make sure all families and children in the surrounding community receive gifts during the holiday season. Congratulations Sheri.

Johanna Morgan (2009 Recipient)

Johanna is the Ambulatory Care Supervisor in the Neurology and Orthopedics Center and the person who epitomizes the heart and soul of the clinic. She works tirelessly to ensure that the daily operation of the center runs smoothly and that every patient is treated with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Johanna has also played a major role in the improved performance of clinic's operations. Her staff knows her as a person with a kind and sweet spirit who continually assists patients from their arrival time to the time they are discharged. She is not considered a supervisor who sits behind her desk giving orders, but rather a person who works along with her staff in all capacities. She promotes morale and teamwork throughout the center. Congratulations Johanna.

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Ann Patla (2009 Recipient)

As the Liaison to State Agencies, UIC Healthcare System, Ann has devoted her professional life to improving the care for the less fortunate in Illinois. In the past 8 years, she has been the center of ongoing efforts to ensure that this group has access to world class healthcare at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Her professional experience at the county and state levels is invaluable and has contributed to making the Medical Center and the Health Science Colleges acknowledged leaders in forging a new vision for health care in Illinois. During her tenure, Ann's efforts have led to a substantial increase in revenues for the Medical Center and the Health Science Colleges. With her advocacy, the Medical Center's partnership with the city, county and state agencies has strengthened and she has helped immensely in the collaboration in improving care for the most at risk of our patients. Congratulations Ann.

Victor Cadiz Agoo (2009 Recipient)

Victor is an Administrative Nurse 1 and a valued member of the 5 East Surgical unit team. His outgoing, take-charge personality sets him apart from his peers. He easily resolves patient admission issues; mentors staff nurses and communicates with physicians with an impressive and graceful style. He is a true representative of the Medical Center by providing the highest possible patient care and utmost customer care. Recently, he was asked to assist on a research project to meet his professional and educational requirements. Although this was a complex assignment, Victor was always prepared, knowledgeable, committed and excited to learn. His work ethic and leadership skills are attributes that managers dream of replicating among their staff. He is someone that his nursing colleagues will role model in striving for higher performance. Congratulations Victor.

Robert Cook (2009 Recipient)

As an Administrative Assistant, Family Liaison Specialist in the Department of Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC), Robert is a true advocate for children with special health care needs. In his role, he assisted in forming the Family Advisory Council, whose members consist of families served by DSCC and whose main function is to provide the agency feedback and guidance in the development of programs, policies and procedures. He's been a leader in the establishment of medical homes for children with special health care needs by serving as a liaison and mentors parents who volunteer on quality improvement teams around the state. Robert is known to be a great listener and always provides the necessary resources and support to those parents who need it. Robert has a great sense of humor but is focused on his mission as a parent, mentor, employee, and friend. Congratulations Robert.

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Sharon Jenkins (2009 Recipient)

Sharon has been with the Department of Division of Specialized Care for Children since 1992 and is currently in the position of Social Work Aide III. Her priorities are the needs of the families served by the DSCC and she routinely goes beyond her normal duties to help them. She never hesitates to use her expertise to help her co-workers and demonstrates her commitment to excellence on a daily basis. On one occasion when a DSCC child needed a cardiac procedure, Sharon took charge in absence of the patient coordinator to resolve conflicts that prohibited the child from being cared for and was able to assist in finding other resources to help the patient and the family. Her compassion, patience and determination for families have been evident on many difficult occasions. She repeatedly helps families with their medical bills and assists by sitting down with the families to review their bills, call the providers and even the collection agencies to resolve them. Sharon always provides the very best patient care to the families with dedication and a smile. Congratulations Sharon.

Maurice Bass (2009 Recipient)

Maurice is a project coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry and someone who consistently outperforms in his job and takes the extra step to ensure patient satisfaction. His persona is described as someone who is very patient, caring, and compassionate and he has the ability to ease patients with his words of encouragement and support. Maurice understands and represents the Medical Center's vision and goal, providing excellent patient care, which is reflected by the continuous feedback and compliments he receives from patients, healthcare providers, and other medical center staff. He is a team player and very professional with patients, his colleagues and the clinicians. It is well known that his goal is to make every patient's experience a positive one. He is a star employee and has received many other awards for the exceptional service he provides patients. Congratulations Maurice.

Douglas Walczak (2009 Recipient)

As a Data Coordinator in the Solid Organ Transplant Department, Doug is responsible for maintaining all statistical and documentation requirements by the Center of Medicare & Medicaid Services and the United Network of Organ Sharing for all the Solid Organ Transplant Programs. This is a complex job but despite the challenges, he has managed to receive a 100% compliance score from regulatory agencies and has helped the Center to be accredited as a Center of Excellence. He's very committed and works tirelessly to improve the program and sets high standards in work ethics and service excellence for himself and for other

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staff. He touches every aspect of the operations: clinical, education, compliance and research and is a valuable asset to the Transplant program and UIC. Congratulations Doug.

Kathleen Walrath (2009 Recipient)

Kathy has been working for the Medical Center since 1982 and in her current role as Quality and Safety Coordinator for Nursing Services, she has been instrumental in transforming the department of Nursing Quality and Safety. Thanks to her leadership, strategic and creative planning, the department has had many successful quality initiatives. She has successfully reorganized the nursing quality improvement model to enhance care, not only from the nursing perspective, but for the entire medical center interdisciplinary team. This was achieved with Kathy's ability to engage both managers and staff to participate in a learning environment. Her work has gained recognition from all levels within the Medical Center and she is often sought for her expertise by many. She is a very positive role model and brings out the best in those she interacts with. Congratulations Kathleen.

Nicole Rush (2009 Recipient)

Nicole started working for the Medical Center in 2002 and since then has shown a strong determination to further her professional development. In 2005, she was promoted from Project Coordinator to Assistant Director. She is a self-starter, highly accountable, and takes ownership of all projects she undertakes. As the department lead on the Press-Ganey Satisfaction survey and chair of the Ambulatory Care Patient Satisfaction Committee, she is committed to finding new methods and practices to improve patient satisfaction. Recently, she developed the "High 5" patient satisfaction awareness campaign and also initiated a recognition program that highlights physicians and staff members named on patient satisfaction surveys. She is also working with staff and departments to reduce safety risks and enhance the appearance of the ambulatory buildings with limited resources. Nicole is a very talented individual and team player who contributes to the daily operations of Ambulatory services. Congratulations Nicole.

From the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs there are two recipients.

Carol Parks (2009 Recipient)

Carol Parks is committed to helping students by motivating them to be persistent in reaching their educational goals. She is very knowledgeable about various educational opportunities such as scholarships, internships, student employment, summer programs, campus resources and activities as well as community events. A student recently summed Carol's contribution to the University perfectly, saying

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“Carol made me feel that the Native American Support Program was my home away from home. The support and care that she gives is tangible such as finding resources and contact numbers and reviewing my last minute assignments. The love that she demonstrates to students, not just Native American students, but to anyone who walks by is felt. Carol is one of those people in the Student Services Building that everyone flocks to for assistance or a morale boost.” Congratulations Carol.

Jessica Stewart (2009 Recipient)

Serving as the Assistant Director of Student Development Services, Jessica Stewart is aptly described by the phrase “grace under fire.” Within days of her arrival at UIC, Jessica was deeply involved in the summer orientation program, making valuable contributions. Her work with the inaugural Freshmen Convocation, a new initiative sponsored by the Provost, was flawless. During her tenure in Student Development Services, she has developed a comprehensive marketing plan that has enhanced the branding of the New Student and Parent Orientation Program. This program, which represents a huge logistical challenge, is essential for a successful transition of our students from high school to college, and her impact has been significant. Her supervisor and co-workers have been especially impressed by her enthusiasm, creativity and sound judgment. Jessica is a consummate professional who never seems to lose her composure even when faced with an intimidating maze of paperwork. Her strong work ethic has allowed her to greatly exceed the expectations of this position. Congratulations Jessica.

From University Administration we have one recipient.

Mike Hallahan (2009 Recipient)

As a Senior Contract Coordinator in the office of OBFS-Business Development Services, Mike is a creative problem solver. He inspires confidence in every transaction with his exceptionally likeable disposition, his sensitivity to others, and his “let’s find a way to make this work” approach to every challenge. Mike always strives to learn as much as possible and that really is evident with his willingness to take on new responsibilities even when his workload is already overwhelming. Mike’s commitment to UIC is clear. He truly embodies the spirit of the UIC Award of Merit. Congratulations Mike.

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2008 Recipients

From the Offices of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Research, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, & Vice Chancellor for Development there is one recipient.

From the Office of Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

Anna Dworzecka (2008 Recipient)

Anna Dworzecka. In the three years since she joined the UIC Office of Public Affairs as a graphic artist and designer Anna has earned a reputation as being consistent and reliable. A staff member of Public Affairs, her award winning work represents UIC across the campus and throughout the city, indeed the state and the country, in the form of in-house materials, advertising and in print and internet mediums. Anna has demonstrated talent and creativity, as well as an outstanding customer service commitment and work ethic. So the next time you see a UIC fact book or receive your annual holiday greeting from UIC, remember that Anna Dworzecka is the person to credit for making UIC look good, both figuratively and literally.

From the Provost and Office of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Randal Stone (2008 Recipient)

As a member of the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition for nearly 23 years Randal Stone has been a model worker, continually provided excellent service. Beginning as a student worker, he has made himself an integral part of his department by virtue of his encyclopedic knowledge of the unit's workings. He seizes every opportunity for professional growth and routinely takes on responsibilities well outside of the scope of his job description. Although he excels in every aspect of his multi-faceted responsibilities, his interactions with students are particularly noteworthy; he demonstrates genuine concern for their welfare, applying his superior problem solving skills to each individual problem. We are pleased to recognize Mr. Stone's work by presenting him with this award.

Lea Smucker (2008 Recipient)

Kristina Lea Smucker began working in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology part time while completing her MBA in accounting. The department quickly realized that this enthusiastic employee was someone they wanted to keep and five years later she has proved that their decision was a wise one. Described as a key employee who is vital to the success of her department, Lea is known for

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efficiency, combining the valuable ability to manage the intricacies of her job while maintaining an awareness of the larger issues and goals that need to be taken into account. In addition to her numerous other duties she has been charged with training departmental staff, and many people have noted she is an extremely effective teacher; demonstrating both patience and an impressive depth of knowledge. Congratulations Lea.

Hazel Brown (2008 Recipient)

Hazel Brown, Admissions and Records Officer in the Department of Urban Planning and Policy has a history of superior work performance. She firmly believes that education is the key to personal and professional growth and it is the principle that guides her in her work. Hazel makes herself available to prospective and new students as they try to navigate the educational system and she remains with them throughout their academic careers, so much so that they asked that she be the one to announce their names at commencement. She manages keeps up with an ever increasing slate of responsibilities and shows initiative in improving departmental functions. She does all of this while raising four children and pursuing her undergraduate degree. Hazel is an outstanding employee who embodies those qualities we seek to recognize with the Award of Merit.

Barbara O'Laughlin (2008 Recipient)

Barbara O'Laughlin has spent the past five years implementing a dynamic interaction of teaching, research and service in partnership with our community, in her role as Associate Director of the Chicago Center for Early Education. In doing so she provides service to more than 8,000 children and their families every year while providing learning opportunities for pre-service teachers and early childhood professionals. Barbara demonstrates a willingness to share her expertise, which incorporates a vast knowledge of early childhood needs and resources. Her work is a reflection of UIC's College of Education's mission to advance scholarship while fulfilling our goal of providing opportunities our students and service to our community. Barbara O'Laughlin is an essential employee who truly deserves this Award of Merit.

Robert Emil Lajos (2008 Recipient)

As the Laboratory Manager for UIC's Nanotechnology Core Facility (NCF) for almost 6 years Robert Lajos has earned a reputation as an outstanding specialist without whom the NCF could not function effectively. He utilizes ingenuity, resourcefulness and tenacity to keep the lab's equipment in top working order. Experienced in engineering and science, Robert has an invaluable breadth of knowledge within the field of microscale and nanoscale fabrication. Within his

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field he is also recognized as a leader who fosters individual development among his junior colleagues. Robert's commitment to the institution is clear and he is truly deserving of this Award of Merit. Congratulations Robert.

Vera Shack (2008 Recipient)

Since 1978 Vera Shack has made it her business to ensure that the Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literature Department functions effectively. She handles an extraordinarily wide range of activities, from directing students to academic advisors, negotiating the intricacies of passport regulation, budgeting, schedule and event planning. She began at UIC when personal computing was in its infancy and over her 20 year tenure she has become the department's resident expert in all matters technical. Perhaps most impressively she has mastered the alphabets and pronunciations of the numerous eastern European languages the department teaches. Always arriving early and often staying late, Vera's contributions go above and beyond the call of duty and deserve to be recognized with the UIC Award of Merit.

Philip John Reiter (2008 Recipient)

Phil Reiter heads the College of Pharmacy Information Technology Unit, providing IT support for more than 800 faculty and staff and 600 students. He has always performed his job very well, providing leadership and performing community outreach, in addition to his full time work ensuring that his department's IT systems are efficient and up to date. Over the past year Phil has risen to some serious challenges, created by the fire which closed the College of Pharmacy Building. Phil played a critical role in the recovery while providing the necessary technical support which allowed the department to continue to function in the interim. He has gone on to utilize all that he learned as part of the recovery team to assist the university as a whole in preparing our IT systems for any future disasters. He is a true asset to the University. Congratulations, Phil, on receiving this Award of Merit.

Delois Shepard (2008 Recipient)

As Departmental Information Supervisor in the Provost's office, Delois Shepard goes about her daily duties committed to the pursuit of excellence. In almost 10 years of service to UIC, Delois has sought out challenges and embraced change, all the while deriving satisfaction from contributing to communal functions of her workplace. She is professional in her work and applies her eye for detail and problem solving abilities to managing the complexities involved in managing my schedule. It is a tribute to her abilities that, while I know on an intellectual level how difficult her job can be, in practice I never see the immense effort she puts

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into ensuring that my days always run smoothly and efficiently. Delois is an exceptional employee who is truly deserving of this award. Congratulations to you, Delois.

Paulette Malden (2008 Recipient)

The faculty and staff who work with Paulette Malden in UIC's Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP) have the highest regard for her character, work ethic and positive attitude. Her dedication to the work of COIP is truly impressive. Not only does she handle the demanding responsibilities of her job, which include human resources management, payroll and transaction processing, she has extraordinarily well developed "people skills," which are integral to her successful performance. For 14 years Paulette has dedicated herself to COIP's mission while serving as a mentor to staff. Paulette has proven to be a true asset to UIC and for this we honor her with the Award of Merit.

Margaret Burnette (2008 Recipient)

In many ways Margaret, or as she prefers to be known, "Peg" Burnette personifies what is best about UIC. She has worked at the Library of Health Sciences for 25 years and in that time has made it her mission to learn about and utilize every new tool available to assist her patrons in accessing information in the most efficient manner possible. Peg has developed a reputation as a consummate team player, serving on a variety committees designed to improve the efficacy of library operations. She provides service above and beyond what is required, assisting in the developments of presentations, as well as providing technical and moral support when needed. To use the words of one of her many fans, "As a representative of UIC, she makes us all look good." Congratulations, Peg, you have earned this honor.

Luis M. Duarte (2008 Recipient)

Luis Duarte is currently the assistant director of the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services program (LARES) but he has served LARES in other roles during his decade of service to UIC. Through his work Luis has repeatedly demonstrated his strong commitment to diversity, not only within the campus community, but also by his outreach efforts to Latino communities throughout Chicago. As UIC's de-facto ambassador to local Hispanic communities he works to make student aware of the educational possibilities open to them at UIC. Luis Duarte work every day to make UIC a better place for all students and through his efforts both sustains and enriched the campus community. In sum, Luis is an excellent employee and UIC is fortunate to have him on our team.

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Karen Su (2008 Recipient)

Dr. Karen Su, Director of the Asian American Resources and Cultural Center at UIC, has made a huge impact at UIC since her arrival in 2004 by playing a pivotal role in laying the groundwork for UIC's successful Asian American Studies program. Perhaps the most visible evidence of her efforts was the opening four years ago of the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center. Karen has done immense service in support of increasing the effectiveness and visibility of UIC's Asian American Studies program, introducing year-round programming, serving on numerous campus committees and assuming leadership roles in national organizations. "Visionary," "inspirational," "creative," and "dedicated" are just a few the words her colleagues and students have used to describe her. Karen, we are honored today to recognize all of your hard work by presenting you with this Award of Merit.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Jennette Grandberry (2008 Recipient)

Jeannette Grandberry, Building Services Worker, is our next honoree. Ms. Grandberry is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of the 59 offices, two conference rooms, classrooms, hallways and lounge areas that comprise the Jane Addams College of Social Work. Hundreds of students, along with a faculty and staff of about 50 utilize this space every year and Jeannette works diligently to assure that the facilities are well maintained. Her job is one in which, when well done, elicits little or no comment. Jeannette exceeds the normal expectations for her position and her extra care and attention to detail are what sets her apart. Congratulations Jeannette on your selection as a 2008 Award of Merit winner.

James R. Cook (2008 Recipient)

Since joining the Office of Facility Information Management (FIM) in 2005 James Cook has combined resourcefulness and creativity with a high level of professionalism. This will come as no surprise to anyone who has known him since he joined the Office of Capital Programs 13 years ago as a student draftsman and has watched Jim assume progressive levels of responsibility. People who have worked with Jim describe him as a resourceful creative problem solver and a diplomat who takes great pride in his work. And any of who have ever used the visitor maps distributed across campus have firsthand experience with the quality of his work, since Jim played a central role in the design and implementation of that project. A model employee, whose ambitious and tireless efforts make UIC a better place, Jim Cook is a wonderful choice to receive this award.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

Thomas R. Phillips (2008 Recipient)

Sergeant Thomas Phillips has demonstrated a high level of dedication and considerable time and effort to provide proactive and professional police service to the campus community. He has demonstrated his leadership and management abilities within the Investigations Unit of the UIC Police Department, as well as providing crime analysis to the Patrol Division. His superiors hail him as a sergeant in the finest police tradition, meeting objectives to carry out the departmental mission while balancing the needs of those who serve under him. Like all good officers in law enforcement Tom places community service at the forefront and uses his leadership skills to build the teamwork necessary to any successful police force. Congratulations, Tom.

Clarence Thomas (2008 Recipient)

Clarence Thomas's career in facilities Management has spanned 30 years and in that time he has worked his way from building service worker to his current position of supervisor. During that time he has always been a courteous, professional, punctual and dedicated worker. In these difficult economic conditions Mr. Thomas has demonstrated enthusiasm and energy to motivate his workers, contributing to productivity, attendance and morale. He is very flexible, always accommodating last minute deadline and competing requests with diligence and a "can-do" attitude. Please let me extend congratulations to you today Clarence, you deserve this recognition.

UIC Healthcare System

Timothy Carrigan (2008 Recipient)

Although he is relatively new the role of Nurse Manager for 3 Intensive Care units, Timothy Carrigan, having previously held positions as a staff nurse and practice advancement specialist since joining UIC in 2003, has already impressed everyone with his professionalism, dedication and initiative. Those who work in healthcare will tell you the at the role of nurse manager is one of the most challenging, and coupled with his work in the highly stressful environment of the ICU, Tim has a taken on lot and handled it impressively. That he takes his responsibilities for creating a positive work culture, effectively allocating resources, and above all patient care quality, very seriously, shows and the results are obvious. He collaborates effectively with his staff, takes initiative, and shows creativity in achieving his goals. Despite his demanding position Tim is an active participant in professional organizations and is working towards a doctorate. Timothy Carrigan is an outstanding selection to receive this award.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

Sally Hogan (2008 Recipient)

Administrative Nurse I Sally Hogan is known by her colleagues as an excellent clinician. Her patients and their families know her as someone who demonstrates integrity and compassion and her demeanor always has a calming effect, even in the most stressful situations. She is also a wonderful colleague, a true team player who is always willing to take the most arduous assignments. Sally goes the extra mile to create a positive work environment, always bringing in homemade treats for her co-workers and decorating for every holiday. Sally, please accept my congratulations.

Cynthia Daniels (2008 Recipient)

In her position as a training assistant in the Medical Center's call center, Cynthia Daniels demonstrates exceptional customer service skills. Her abilities quickly become evident during her first year of employment when she demonstrated her initiative and developed and taught a customer service program for Ambulatory Services which produced a measurable improvement in patient satisfaction ratings. This success can be attributed in large part to Cynthia's personal credibility with her co-workers, who all recognize her ability to communicate effectively with patients and are impressed by her commitment to continuing professional development for herself and her colleagues. She is empathetic but not patronizing and is very effective in resolving issues in such a manner that potential problems are diffused. Cynthia consistently performs far beyond expectations and this high level of commitment makes her a truly exemplary employee, deserving of this honor today.

Azalea W. Hurt (2008 Recipient)

The University of Illinois Hospital has been truly fortunate to have Azalea Hurt, a patient support coordinator, as one of our own. A true team player, she has taken an active role to ensure patient safety and satisfaction. Rather than saying "It is not in my job description" she will say "we all have the same job, to help our patients and staff" and she will say it with a smile. Azalea brings her greatest strengths to her work and deals with the pressures of her job with style and grace. Azalea has proven to be indispensable in working towards achieving our commitment to quality and for that we honor her with the Award of Merit. Congratulations, Azalea.

Veronica K. Stefanek (2008 Recipient)

Veronica Stefanek, Program Director of the Community Reintegration Program in the Department of Psychiatry, has made significant contributions to the Medical Center and the University during her career. She is a dedicated and conscientious

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

social work who routinely tackles difficult cases, and who displays the highest ethical standards, sensitivity, humanity and creativity in serving the needs of her patients and their families. Her effectiveness is enhanced by her vast knowledge of community issues and resources among her client population. She readily accepts new responsibilities, and this attribute, coupled with her innovative approach to organizational issues, have made her a natural leader . It is my honor, Veronica, to present you with this Award of Merit.

Geri L. Jaracz (2008 Recipient)

Clinical Practice Specialist Gerri Jaracz has developed a reputation as an exceptional employee, one who can effectively fill the roles, as circumstances demand, of solo performer, team player and team leader. A seasoned and experienced educator, Geri has influenced hundreds of new nurses through her role in Nursing Care Orientation, taught countless critical care courses, worked on numerous committees and assisted with the implementation of numerous Medical Center initiatives. Her positive attitude and commitment to excellence are attributes that enhance not only the Medical Center but all of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Thank you Gerri!

Terri G. Kaisling (2008 Recipient)

During the decade that Terri Kaisling has worked as in the University Health System she has demonstrated the highest level of excellence in all aspects of work, along with a consistent customer service orientation that exceeds expectations. For Terri the patient always comes first. Currently Director of Physician Practice for the Craniofacial Center, her leadership and dedication to teamwork has inspired our staff. Terri possesses knowledge, including an MBA, and abilities, such as excellent nursing skills, that allow her to perform her the varies demands of work with the utmost professionalism and she does just that, every day. I am honored to recognize Terri's service by presenting her with this Award of Merit. Congratulations.

Kim Marie Binns (2008 Recipient)

Kim Binns has been serving children the Division of Specialized Care for Children since 1980. She does an excellent job of meeting customer expectations promptly and with the utmost professionalism. Her colleagues describe her as someone who demonstrates creativity, a strong work ethic, attention to detail and sensitivity to others, all of which make her an exceptional person and a pleasure to be around. Currently a Program Coordinator Assistant, she has demonstrated professional

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

growth throughout her career at UIC and has ably met the challenges brought on by new roles and changes in responsibilities and duties. Her co-workers describe her as someone who dependable, hard-working and extremely knowledgeable, governed by a strong sense of compassion, sensitivity and ethics. Congratulations, Kim, you have earned this honor.

Nina M. Olesinski (2008 Recipient)

For the past 23 years Dr. Nina Olesinski has made major contributions to the UIC in both academic and clinical practice capacities. Currently Director of the Medical Learning Center, she is responsible for organization-wide compliance training for all disciplines within the Medical Center. Described as passionate about her work and her profession, she is known for her strong work ethic. She brings these attributes to her bear in her commitment to improving patient care. Her strong belief in the importance of developing collegial relationships with other departments has served to increase her effectiveness in her current role. Her staff members have referred to her as “a great leader and mentor,” someone who encourages creative thinking and strives to create a positive work environment for the entire Medical Center staff. Congratulations, Nina you are truly deserving of this Award of Merit.

Aretha Williams (2008 Recipient)

As a Customer Service Representative, Aretha Williams has dedicated herself to providing quality service to patients, while doing all she can to assist physicians and staff at the Medical Center. Known for her positive outlook and sunny disposition she exhibits patience, persistence, resourcefulness and flexibility, even in the most stressful situations. Aretha leads by example and demonstrates by her daily interactions the value she places on treating everyone with kindness, courtesy and respect. She is known for her willingness to take that extra step to be sure that patients receive the best care possible. You have earned this award, Aretha. Congratulations.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Booker T. Suggs (2008 Recipient)

In his fourteen year career UIC Booker Suggs has served in variety of roles and in the Student Centers and in each of these jobs he has strived to share his enthusiasm for the institution with others. He is well known for consistency in accomplishing every task he undertakes; completely, accurately and on-time. Through his work ethic he serves as a role model for all his employees. He is especially good at establishing rapport with student workers, and encourages them to get as much out every opportunity as they can. He is always willing to give of his time to serve the

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

campus community. Booker leads by example; he is always calm, good humored and a pleasure to work with. Congratulations, Booker.

Fannie Mallett (2008 Recipient)

Fannie Mallett has been a professional staff member at UIC since 1983 and she has served the campus community in many important public relation capacities. A consummate professional under even the most stressful circumstances, she always presents herself as proficient, responsive and caring. Because of her years' of experience Fannie is a valuable source of information and can always steer visitors in the right direction. Fannie, please accept my congratulations.

From University Administration

Shannon Dwyer (2008 Recipient)

Shannon Dwyer, an Enterprise Coordination Specialist with AITS, has provided exemplary service since she joined UIC in 2001. She impresses everyone she interacts with, with her knowledge, professionalism and drive. An excellent team player, she brings an impressive array of technical skills to every project, as well as impressive leadership skills. But she never loses sight of the fact that her primary responsibility is to serve students, faculty and staff. Coupled with her outstanding communication skills all of these attributes combine to make Shannon a truly outstanding employee. Congratulations Shannon.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

2007

Office of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, Vice Chancellor for Development, Vice Chancellor for Research, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

Hugh M. Cook (2007 Recipient)

As editor of the *UIC Alumni Magazine* for nearly five years, Hugh Cook has brought creativity and efficiency but above all his passion as an alumnus of UIC to his role. He is an exceptional professional who has become known as a repository of information about UIC and a true resource to the campus community. And he turns out a great magazine. Hugh is truly deserving of this honor.

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dwayne Alexander (2007 Recipient)

In his seven years as Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Criminal Justice, Dwayne Alexander has developed a reputation for providing sound and practical advice to students, faculty and staff. His knowledge, dedication, and work ethic are exemplary and he has proved himself to be a most valuable staff member. By going above and beyond what is expected of an academic advisor, Dwayne sets the standard for service in undergraduate education. We are pleased to recognize his work by presenting him with this Award.

William Baldyga (2007 Recipient)

Throughout his fifteen years at UIC, William Baldyga has played a critical role in UIC's growth as a research university. His work at the Institute for Health Research and Policy has made the Institute a model of professionalism and service. The projects sponsored by the Institute involve a wide range of local organizations, and Bill has contributed significantly to making UIC an integral part of our surrounding community. His hard work and dedication make him a deserving recipient of this award. Congratulations Bill.

Elizabeth Budzik (2007 Recipient)

Elizabeth Budzik is being recognized today because of the creativity and expertise she has brought to the administrative services division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. During her tenure she has demonstrated real motivation for self improvement, completing a Masters of Public Administration at UIC, as well as additional coursework in Health Policy Administration. Elizabeth has applied her educational experience on the job, and her division has directly benefited.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

Elizabeth is an outstanding employee who embodies those qualities we seek to recognize with the Award of Merit.

Sharon Lavelle Earthely (2007 Recipient)

Sharon Lavelle Earthely has served in several capacities at UIC, most recently in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education. In each of her roles she has offered the best in customer service for students, faculty and staff. Characterized by those who work with her as “the go-to person,” she is both professional and accessible. Students rely on Sharon’s wise counsel and years of experience to guide them. Sharon is an essential employee who truly deserves this Award of Merit.

Glenda L. Genio-Terrado (2007 Recipient)

Glenda Genio-Terrado has been at UIC since 1996. In those eleven years, she has exhibited all of the characteristics that the UIC Award of Merit is meant to honor: service, commitment and dedication. Glenda brings determination and a sense of humor to her work, and the result is a more positive work environment for everyone around her. Glenda’s commitment to the institution is clear and she is truly deserving of this Award of Merit. Congratulations Glenda.

Wallace Hammond (2007 Recipient)

Wallace Hammond has always exhibited a “can-do” attitude, and employees of the College of Medicine in Peoria know that they can rely on him. No matter how small or large the task, how easy or complicated, Wally handles the job reliably, efficiently and in the manner that is best for UIC. In addition to his regular duties, Wally works tirelessly every year to ensure that the annual convocation ceremony is a success. His contributions go above and beyond the call of duty and deserve to be recognized with the UIC Award of Merit.

Pia M. Hunter (2007 Recipient)

As a Senior Library Specialist in the Richard J. Daley Library, Pia Hunter leads several units that provide essential services and resources to the university community. The consummate professional, Pia exhibits genuine interest and warmth when dealing with clients. She has also been credited as the “break through” person in moving UIC’s library services into the electronic era. She is a true asset to the University. Congratulations, Pia on receiving this Award of Merit.

Kathleen M. Jones (2007 Recipient)

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

As Assistant Director of Faculty Affairs Human Resources, Kathy Jones goes about her daily duties committed to the pursuit of excellence. Throughout her more than 25 years of service to UIC, Kathy has sought out challenges and embraced change, all the while deriving satisfaction from helping others. She is professional in her work and manages to treat each employee as an individual while working within the complex and sometimes difficult confines of her human resources assignment. Kathy is an exceptional employee who is truly deserving of this award. Congratulations to you, Kathy.

Thomas Lagen (2007 Recipient)

The faculty and staff who work with Thomas Lagen in Biological Sciences have the highest regard for his character, work ethic and positive attitude. Since coming to UIC in 1994 he has also pursued educational opportunities which have helped him to develop as a financial professional and manager. Thomas is known for saying “I’ll take care of it” -- and he does. Thomas has proven himself to be a true asset to UIC and for this we honor him with the Award of Merit.

Santhi Nannapaneni (2007 Recipient)

In many ways Santhi Nannapaneni personifies what is best about UIC, both in her professional and educational trajectory. Since joining UIC as an employee, she has assumed increasingly greater responsibility until arriving at her current post as Assistant Director of Student Affairs for the Department of Computer Science. She did this while pursuing both a BS and an MBA from UIC. She is credited with providing her department with both administrative support and leadership during a period of significant change and growth. Santhi is committed to the success of her students – and it shows in how she approaches her work each day. Congratulations, Santhi, you have earned this honor.

Kassem Saad (2007 Recipient)

Kassem Saad, a Technical Services Supervisor in the Department of Civil & Materials Engineering, has worked at UIC for seventeen years. Despite budget, staff and time constraints, he has given his all to make sure that operations within his department run smoothly and effectively. Kassem has demonstrated a commitment to developing both the students and the staff of his department. And he has contributed to the positive morale that is essential to a productive research and teaching program. In sum, Kassem is an excellent employee and UIC is fortunate to have him on our team.

Carole Silvers (2007 Recipient)

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

Carole Silvers is an ideal employee in that she not only performs her duties as an Information Services Supervisor in the College of Medicine, but she actively seeks out new responsibilities. Her colleagues admire her productivity and efficiency, as well as the quality of her work and her ability to interact positively with faculty, staff and students. Carole's charisma, enthusiasm and problem solving skills have made her a truly valuable asset to both medical students and faculty. Carole, we are honored today to recognize all of your hard work by presenting you with this Award of Merit.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Nadia Alami (2007 Recipient)

Nadia Alami has over 20 years of progressively responsible experience working at UIC and has proven herself to be an integral part of Facilities Management. In addition to the rigorous demands of her job she has also taken time to earn a Masters of Public Administration from UIC. Nadia is a consummate professional who demonstrates a profound understanding of the requirements of her position. A model employee, whose ambitious and tireless efforts make UIC a better place, Nadia is a wonderful choice to receive this award.

Willie Gordon (2007 Recipient)

Customer Services Representative for Parking Services Willie Gordon has been referred to as an "Ambassador" for the University by virtue of his exemplary customer service abilities. His interpersonal skills are excellent and he always greets visitors with a sincere welcome. Willie is an outstanding role model for all of our customer service staff members. Congratulations on your selection as a 2007 Award of Merit winner.

Sheila O. Lewis (2007 Recipient)

In her work as an administrative assistant at the UIC Police Department Sheila Lewis brings integrity, sincerity and enthusiasm to her job. She has demonstrated consistent dedication to her duties to the benefit of the entire department. Sheila can always be relied upon to deal with the daily challenges of her work, with good nature and professionalism and truly deserves to be recognized for her service to the University. Please let me extend congratulations to you today Sheila, you deserve this recognition.

Darryl Rice (2007 Recipient)

Darryl Rice has worked in the Grounds Department of Facilities Management during his entire 25 year career at UIC, but his connection to this place goes back

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

even further, to his time as player on our basketball team. He genuinely loves his job and takes great pride in sharing his horticultural knowledge. An excellent role model for his employees, Darryl is a true “hands on” supervisor, who can always be seen working side by side with fellow employees. Congratulations, Darryl.

UIC Healthcare System

Joseph Abraham (2007 Recipient)

As Administrative Director of Radiology, Joseph Abraham has presided during a period of strong growth for this vital service area. He has worked consistently to advance his skills and career by obtaining additional certifications, taking on management roles and earning an MBA, all of which have directly benefited the Medical Center. Joe is leader in every sense of the word, he has dedicated himself to ensuring that the Radiology Department is the best that it can be. Joe demands much of himself and brings the best out in his staff. Joe is an outstanding selection to receive this award.

Daliah Brown (2007 Recipient)

Daliah Brown does exemplary work, not only in her role as an Administrative Service Coordinator for the Division of Specialized Care for Children, but also as a representative of the DSCC. She has used her leadership skills to develop an outstanding team and to assure high quality of care coordination and service to the children and families served by her office. Daliah accomplishes all of this while maintaining a pleasant demeanor and an easy going attitude that make her a pleasure to work with. Daliah, please accept my congratulations.

Nikki Centomani (2007 Recipient)

As Director of the Department of Safety and Risk Management for the past 15 years, Nikki Centomani has consistently pursued and achieved success. She has used her communication skills to foster cooperation between professional disciplines and academic departments for the benefit of the Medical Center. Nikki is a “big picture” person who appreciates different perspectives and moves all parties towards achieving our common goal of excellence. Nikki consistently performs far beyond expectations and this high level of commitment makes her a truly exemplary employee, deserving of this honor today.

Alexis Q. Egert (2007 Recipient)

The University of Illinois Hospital has been truly fortunate to have Alexis Egert, currently a Nurse Manager, as one of our own for the past 26 years. She has taken an active role to ensure patient safety and satisfaction. Alexis brings her greatest strengths to her work and deals with the pressures of her job with style and grace.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

Alexis has proven to be indispensable in working towards achieving our commitment to quality and for that we honor her with the Award of Merit. Congratulations, Alexis.

Linda Grider (2007 Recipient)

Linda Grider, Assistant Director for Administration of the Hospital Pharmacy, has made significant contributions to the Medical Center and the University during her 27 year career. She brings the vital qualities of attention to detail, responsiveness and leadership to her work. In all that she does, Linda is an excellent role model for her students and colleagues. I'm sure her colleagues would all agree that it is an honor to know her and a pleasure to work with her. It is my honor to present you with this Award of Merit.

Margaret Kryda (2007 Recipient)

Margaret Kryda's career at the Medical Center began 22 years ago as student employee and, by virtue of her abilities, she has progressed through the ranks to her current position as Associate Director of Ambulatory Service. She is known as an exceptional employee who has a record of accomplishments throughout her years of service. Margaret's expertise in key functions has been a tremendous resource to the organization. Her positive attitude and commitment to excellence are attributes that enhance not only the Medical Center but all of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Thank you Margaret!

Rebecca Mischak (2007 Recipient)

During the time Rebecca Mischak has worked as a Nurse Practitioner in the University Health System she has demonstrated the highest level of excellence in all aspects of work, along with a consistent customer service orientation that exceeds expectations. Her leadership and dedication to teamwork has inspired our staff. Becky possesses knowledge and abilities that allow her to perform her work with the utmost professionalism and she does just that, every day. I am honored to recognize Becky's service by presenting her with this Award of Merit. Congratulations.

Kelly McGill (2007 Recipient)

Kelly McGill works as an Administrative Assistant in Nursing Administration, the largest department in the Medical Center. She does an excellent job of meeting customer expectations promptly and with the utmost professionalism. Her colleagues describe her as someone who demonstrates creativity, a strong work ethic, attention to detail and sensitivity to others, all of which make her an exceptional person and a pleasure to be around. Kelly's attitude, commitment to

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

excellence, and positive demeanor are attributes which serve not only the Department of Nursing but UIC as a whole. She epitomizes the true spirit of our University. Congratulations Kelly, you have earned this honor.

Alma Rodriguez (2007 Recipient)

Alma Rodriguez is a Customer Service Representative in the Craniofacial Center who exemplifies the values of integrity and service. She approaches her work diligently and conscientiously, adapting quickly as needs arise, and meeting each new challenge with a determination to succeed. Alma represents the best of UIC in her dedicated, consistent, conscientious job performance. Congratulations, Alma you are truly deserving of this Award of Merit.

Barbara J. Washington (2007 Recipient)

As an Associate Director of Nursing, Barbara Washington has spent the last decade dedicating herself to providing quality service to patients, physicians and staff. She demonstrates true leadership and professionalism in every aspect of her work. Perhaps most importantly, Barbara maintains a positive outlook and exhibits patience, persistence, resourcefulness and flexibility, even in the most stressful situations. Barbara leads by example and demonstrates by her daily interactions the value she places on treating everyone with respect. You have earned this award, Barbara. Congratulations.

Katherine Battee-Freeman (2007 Recipient)

Katherine Battee-Freeman has been with the office of Career Services since 2000. In her current role, she is responsible for managing recruitment activities and student job search activities. This position requires a great deal of patience and she is an island of calm within a zone of frenzied activity during the recruitment season. Katherine is an individual who wants to give back to the community that helped her along the way and this desire is evident in her work at UIC. I am pleased to present you with this award.

Joseph Daniel Phillips (2007 Recipient)

As the Coordinator of Operations in Student Center East, Joseph Phillips manages an area that is a front-line position representing both Student Center East and the university as a whole. His friendly attitude, warm smile, and easy laugh all contribute to his outstanding customer service skills. Joe has not limited himself to just “doing his job;” he enjoys his job and cares about doing it well. Joe, please accept my congratulations.

Award of Merit Recipients (2007-2010)

From University Administration

Charmaine Daniels (2007 Recipient)

Charmaine Daniels, Associate Director of Customer Service for OBFS, impresses everyone she interacts with, with her knowledge, professionalism and drive. Coworkers credit her with creating a positive and nurturing work environment, which fosters a sense of collaboration and community. Charmaine is dedicated to enhancing her leadership skills; in 2004 she earned a Master of Public Administration from UIC and plans to continue her efforts as she begins working on her Ph.D. Her coworkers have called her “an anchor,” because they know that they can always rely on Charmaine to do her best. Congratulations Charmaine.