

# Student Center Spotlight

UIC Student Centers Newsletter

Issue No. 8

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## Welcome



**Rob Rouzer**  
Director  
UIC Student Centers

### Can you believe that it's April?

It seems like just yesterday that I was writing the greeting piece for our first newsletter and here I am writing for the **eighth edition!**

I hope that you are all having a terrific end to the academic year. In just a few weeks we'll be congratulating our graduating employees and sending them out to do great things in the larger community. **On April 10<sup>th</sup>** we'll be having our annual end of year **student employee dinner**. I know that all the full time staff joins me in thanking all of our students for their hard work and dedication to the Student Centers and to UIC.

As I write this, we are into our fourth day of operation at the **Student Recreation Facility**. The use of the facility is already meeting and exceeding our expectations. The construction is also well underway on our **South Campus project**. You can read more about the **UIC Forum** and **James J. Stukel Towers** below.

My thanks to you all for everything that you do to make this a great place to work!

Best regards,  
Rob Rouzer

## Updates @ Student Centers

### Employees of the Month for March, 2006

#### Student Centers West Operations

Mariola Alarcon  
Leland Anderson  
Laurie Gaskin  
Mike King  
Nydia Martinez  
Hakeem Olodo  
Rotie Orr  
Tommy Versie

#### Student Centers East Operations

Yolanda Aguiar  
Lucille Miller  
A. Santillian  
Herbert Johnson  
Miguel Cortez  
Ruben Velano  
Roger Gibson  
Steve Cross  
Nasser Yehya  
Mike Santoro  
Getzman Dade  
Joe Phillips  
Fannie Mallet



**Steve Cross**  
Housekeeping  
Supervisor,  
UIC Student Centers East  
Operations

## Feature Article

### “South Campus Super-Block Project Underway”

(Courtesy: Rob Rouzer)

You can't help noticing the two tower cranes and concrete structures under construction **southeast corner of Halsted and Roosevelt**. What's that all about?

In July of 2003, Campus Auxiliary Services was asked to develop a building program to fill the block at the corner of Halsted and Roosevelt. Campus Housing had already completed a needs assessment study and was planning to develop **additional housing for about 800 more students**. Campus Auxiliaries had, several years earlier, identified the need for additional facilities to support conference activities. The need for a performance space that would accommodate up to 3000 was also identified. Student Centers was asked to help convert these identified needs into a program design for a facility.

During the fall of 2003, we hired an architectural/engineering team to do a feasibility study for the proposed facilities. The plans were refined in the spring of 2004 and eventually, the project was approved by the Board of Trustees. Since then, we have been going through the various stages of developing detailed plans with the design team, building and gaining approval of funding models, and hiring the contractors for the work. Construction got underway last fall with the installation of the caissons that will support the buildings and the concrete structures for the residence towers are rising from the ground.

One step in the process was naming the pieces. The University decided to honor our recently retired president by naming the residence halls the **James J. Stukel Towers**. Our portion of the project was being called a convocation center until our Vice Chancellor, Dr. Barbara Henley came up with the idea to call it the **UIC Forum**. This name ties the new building to a feature of the original campus design. Prior to the 1990's the campus had overhead walkways and, in the center of the area bounded by the lecture centers, there was a tiered seating area called the Forum. There is an architect's rendering of the old Forum in the reception area of 214 Student Center East.

The features of the project include the James J. Stukel Towers – four residence hall towers of varying heights that will house 750 students; a dining hall; a 150 seat auditorium; and the UIC Forum. The Forum will be a large space of approximately 24,000 square feet. This space can be divided into 16,000 square foot and 8,000 square foot sections. We are building in the structure to support an additional moving wall to be added at a later date that will allow us to divide the space into thirds. The space will have about 1200 auditorium style seats on telescoping

platforms and space for up to 1800 additional seats. Portable staging will allow a variety of different stage positions. With the telescoping platforms closed, the flat floor area will accommodate up to 1000 for banquet functions. In addition to the main room, there are two additional rooms of about 4300 square feet that each can be divided into thirds with moving walls. These rooms will support a variety of meetings and events. The facility will also have dressing rooms, a kitchen, and a full complement of support spaces. All of the meeting spaces will be fully equipped for audio/visual support with sound systems, projectors and lighting controls. The Forum main room will have a complete concert sound system built in as well as an extensive theatrical lighting system.

We are very excited about all the possibilities these new spaces will create for new programming opportunities for the campus and the greater community. We hope to be hosting a steady stream of concerts, lectures, and conference activities when the buildings are completed. **The James J. Stukel Towers are scheduled to be open for use for the fall 2007 semester and the UIC Forum will be opened in October of 2007.**

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