



**Dr. Rosalyn Beecham-Green**  
Associate Provost & Executive Director

Of course, it goes without saying that none of this is possible without the efforts of the staff, students and faculty. I am truly proud of the leadership and enthusiasm of the UHP Team as we work together to bring guest speakers, conferences and special events to our students. For example, we recently conducted the first UHP Student Orientation and formed the UHP Pre-Health Professions Student Organization. The energy, passion and commitment contributed to support our efforts enables the UHP to provide robust academic programs and services.

To start the year, the UHP Pre-Health Student Organization with the assistance of the Administrative Office will host the First Annual Illinois Health Professions State-wide conference. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2004, on the East and West side of the UIC campus.

We remain excited about the success of last year's "Health Professions Seminar Series." The seminar featured health professionals from Chicago communities. Participants spoke on their chosen profession, the challenges and joys of their work and lessons learned that may improve the health status of underserved urban populations. We will continue to offer similar seminars to our students. Beginning in this issue, we have added an "alumni" section to highlight the work of our distinguished alums.

We look forward to an exciting and productive Spring semester and hope to see you at our UHP activities!

Again, Happy New Year  
And Welcome Back!

## Highlights

**First Annual Illinois Health Professions State-wide Conference**  
May 1, 2004

**UHP Pre-Health Professions Student Organization**  
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### Administrative Staff

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Comments? Suggestions?  
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# In the News



*UHP Pre-Health Student Organization*

## First Annual Illinois Health Professions Student Conference

The UHP Pre-Health Professions Students Organization will host the First Annual Illinois Health Professions Student Conference on Saturday, May 1, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Conference includes several components—Pre-College, Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional and is intended to serve the informational needs of all students.

On the East side of the campus workshops and presentations on transitioning from grammar school to high school to undergraduate studies will be held for sixth graders through High School. Choosing a Major, Academic Planning, College Admission, Financial Aid, Health Professions Careers options, campus tours and lab demonstrations will be conducted.

On the West side campus activities will include workshops on transitioning from undergraduate to graduate/professional education. Topics will include College Admissions and Selection, Study Skills and Preparing for the Aptitude Test and Board Exams. Presentations on careers in Applied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health as well as a career fair and campus tours and lab demonstrations will take place. For more information or to assist with the planning, contact Jennifer Sparks, President at [jspark3@uic.edu](mailto:jspark3@uic.edu) or Academic Advisor, Dr. Michael Toney, at [mtoney@uic.edu](mailto:mtoney@uic.edu)

## Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH) Introduces New Executive Officers

MSAPH is a student graduate organization designed to facilitate a better environment for networking, community involvement, and academic preparedness for future public health professionals. The organization seeks to serve as a solution resource for not only minorities in the School of Public Health, but to anyone within Public Health who desires to play an active role in addressing issues surrounding health disparities in medically underserved urban areas. For more information, contact Jude Haney, President at [jhaney2@uic.edu](mailto:jhaney2@uic.edu) or Frank Pina at [fpina@uic.edu](mailto:fpina@uic.edu).

Photo: (sitting from left to right)—Rosaella Washington, Vice President, Eniola Are-Latosa, Secretary, and Jude Haney, President. (Standing: from left to right: Frank Pina, Director, Urban Health Program, Adela Pena, Advisor, and Dr. Shaffdeen Amuwo, Director, Urban Health Program.



## Alumni Highlights



*Fabiola Barajas, MPH 2000*

Born and raised in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, Fabiola Barajas graduated with a Master in Public Health in 2000. Today, she is the Coordinator of Community Health Promotions for McNeal Hospital. Fabiola teams up with hospital experts and community agencies to provide screenings, tours, and health education lectures that promote healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis and treatment. Her role is to extend beyond the hospital walls, go into the community and serve the needs of the residents of Berwyn-Cicero. "I like being proactive in trying to teach people responsibility for their health," she said. According to Fabiola, the Urban Health Program provided her with valuable resources and information throughout her years at UIC. "As a third year pre-med undergraduate student I was really confused and uncertain about pursuing that career. I knew that I wanted to be in the health field and that I wanted to help people. Having the opportunity to experience public health in the "real world" at Alivio Medical Center, a community based clinic in Pilsen, helped me to realize that public health was for me. "It was the perfect fit. The UHP gave me the opportunity to learn about options in the health professions and to meet Latino health professionals that served as role models and helped motivate me to pursue a career in public health," she added.