

THE AMPERSAND

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Late Breaking News!

The Ampersand and the entire Honors College community would like to welcome our new Dean, Psychology Professor Bette Bottoms.

Dr. Bottoms started her new position on Monday, November 17th.

Be sure to read the next issue of the Ampersand for an in-depth interview.

Again, welcome!



YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

GISELLE DE LA ROSA

On Tuesday November 4th, 2008 I was one of over 250,000 at Grant Park and millions around the world who witnessed history.

The United States elected an African-American to its highest office. After a long and brutal campaign of 21 months, Barack Obama had won the votes of people of all ages and races. He attracted thousands to rallies and inspired millions with his message of hope.

With tickets to the victory rally being auctioned off for well over \$1000, people were desperate to be part of this celebration- and they had every reason to. The atmosphere that night was beyond ecstasy. Crying, hugging, screaming, the energy was amazing and contagious. As I listened to President-Elect Obama's beautiful speech, I was moved to tears with pride. Pride in my country, pride in thousands of campaign volunteers like myself, but most importantly, pride in Obama.

Obama had earned my admiration and a special place in my heart long before his stance as a presidential nominee. Just four years ago, I had met him as he campaigned for the Senate at a rally of about 60 people. This "strange tall lanky guy" as he described himself then, has come so far but his character, passion, and message has not changed or diminished.

In the basement of my local theatre, I remember a friend and me, two 14 year olds grumbling in the back since we were dragged to this rally with a bargain for a ride to the movies. I was completely apolitical and uninvolved, raised in a family with the notion that "all politicians are the same; corrupt liars that only care about power". In spite of that, in a basement, Barack Obama transformed that belief forever.

His 20 minute speech completely inspired

me, it awed me how passionate this man was about helping all of us. Furthermore, after his speech Obama did something I will never forget. He sat down with us, two high school students who couldn't even vote, invited us to a Shirley Temple, and explained some of the issues we didn't understand. He listened to our concerns, challenged us to work hard, never lose hope in our dreams, and professed that we could "change to world".

He was incredibly genuine on how he felt about young people; I felt he truly believed in me as he continued to avow: "you can change the world". I took his

message and ran with it. I opened my eyes and became involved in the injustices of the world that Obama was fighting

to change. Although I still can't vote, when I heard of his nomination I did not hesitate to eagerly volunteer for the campaign. I've learned to live my life with this vision of hope and belief that I can "change the world." For that, I am forever in debt to Obama.

As I stood among the sea of people in Grant Park, I thought back to the last four years of Obama. From a basement of a few dozen people to rallies of thousands all over the world, it was incredible to see how far he'd come. Nonetheless, for the thousands others who didn't have a personal "Obama story," their delight was the same, if not greater. In Grant Park and all over the world: raptures of "Yes We Can!" chants, jumps in delight, tears of happiness, hugs between families, friends, even strangers-all in celebration of this man.

No matter what your personal belief is of Obama or his politics, the power of his message cannot be denied. Only time will tell whether President Obama will achieve all he has promised, but thus far he truly has "changed the world".



Supporters gather in Grant Park for President-Elect Barack Obama's speech

A NEW FACE IN THE HONORS COLLEGE!

LISA ZHANG

These days, there's a new face in the UIC Honors College. Marie Khan joined the Honors College crew last month as one of the assistants to the dean. Currently, she is working with various Honors College groups to help them publicize their events through the Honors college website and emails to Honors College students. If you have an event to publicize, she would love to help you out! Just send her an email at mkhanj@uic.edu. She also works with Dean Madia to put together committee calendars as well as with the alumni of the Honors College.

Even though Marie is new to the UIC Honors College, she is very familiar with the Honors College atmosphere. As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she was a part of the Honors College and worked there for four years, gaining much experience and knowledge of its inner structure.

At UW-Milwaukee, she graduated with a major in political science and minors in history and art history. Undoubtedly, one of her passions is art and she loves to travel and see art from all around the world. She especially enjoys Greek sculpture, early and late impressionist paintings and Italian architecture. In her free time, she's been busy taking care of her two new cats and loves to play volleyball. She also would love to be fluent in many languages and hopes to take classes in Urdu in the coming semesters.

As she's settling in at UIC, she says that she loves the atmosphere. She is especially impressed with how motivated the Honors College students are within their student organizations. In the future, she looks forward to working one on one with the students, mentoring them and just being there for them if they need her. Also, she wants to use what she learned in college to learn from and work with the student and faculty of the Honors College. Welcome Marie!



Marie Khan,
new assistant to the Dean

SOCIETY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS

EMILY FINCHUM

My name is Emily Finchum and I am the President of the Society of Future Physicians for the 2008-09 academic year. We have an amazingly dedicated executive board comprised of the following Honors College students:

Rasha Atallah – Vice President

Ashraf Abbas – Treasurer

Moiz Dawood – Secretary

Jee Eun Nam – Volunteer Coordinator

Apoorva Maddi – Activities Coordinator

Raj Murugappan – Webmaster

We are currently gearing up for a productive semester filled with interesting physicians' lectures, great charity drives, and lots of volunteer work. This is a big year for America and SFP is attempting to branch out from the normal pre-medical curriculum and show the university about the future of medicine in terms of its social, political, economical and technological aspects.

We have finally set up a Health Education program through SFP, a program that we have been feverishly working toward since the inception of the SFP Social Activism Committee in early 2008. In this program, we will be presenting large-scale assemblies on healthy lifestyles, nutrition, and fitness to high school students at UIC College Prep. Look for more details on this program towards the end of the fall 2008 semester!

As always, SFP will be raising money to support the global efforts of Health for Humanity, an organization based in Wilmette, IL. Health for Humanity sends seasoned physicians to medically-underserved nations to train local health professionals on how to treat epidemic diseases. Last year, we were able to donate \$800 and, this year, we are attempting to raise \$1,000.

The Society of Future Physicians is proud to be a part of the changing face of medicine and we are looking forward to a didactic and compelling year of activities. If you would like any more information regarding our events for the year, please visit our website: http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/prof/sfp/

10 QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW USG PRESIDENT: MS. RASHA ATALLAH

AMY MADURAM

Ms. Rasha Atallah, formerly the Vice President of Undergraduate Student Government (USG), has recently stepped into her new role as President of USG. I had the pleasure of interviewing her about her vision for the future of the USG.

Tell me about your leadership and achievements at UIC.

I'm a junior, biology major and psychology minor. I've been in the USG since my freshman year. I'm in the Society of Future Physicians, have been in that for three years, and was Vice President last year and this year. I really loved that because it's something I want to do in the future. I volunteer at the hospital at UIC and also at a preschool in my hometown.

When did you join the USG? Why did you get involved?

In my freshman year I wanted to join an organization that I knew had the ability to make changes if we wanted, and an organization that the administration would listen to. So I wanted to join an organization that would get student problems fixed and be a voice to the administration. Student government touches a lot more than politics, although people think that it's all politics, but it is about the students. Our six committees deal with every problem a student would deal with, all the way from cultural affairs to facilities, and we address all those issues. In a broad way, I have a lot of interests and this organization allowed me to address those issues while making a change on campus.

What significant issues did you advocate in your years in USG?

During my freshman year, I looked into recycling on campus because I personally felt that it was an issue that most students didn't understand. So I looked into the different types of recycling programs we have at UIC. I also worked to organize our semi-annual event recess and organized blood drives. I helped to put together our movie discussion night with one of our committees.

As a new president, what vision do you hope to realize for UIC and its students? What plans and projects that you promote in USG will specifically enhance student life?

Currently we're working on a variety of different things. For example, some of our committees are working on stand-up comedy shows to enhance student life, as well as a battle of the bands to make students want to be here on campus and stay in school. Even though we are a commuter campus, this will get the commuters as well as residents engaged. Also, one of our committees is working on another movie discussion, and we want to give students a comfortable environment to discuss controversial issues. Also another project has to do with other universities around the Chicago-land area. Our goal is to be more connected with other universities through the Chicago Coalition of Colleges, so we can have a more united student voice. We are also working to enhance and possibly create a Middle Eastern studies minor, and along with that to provide more opportunities in the learning center for the various languages, and promote that to the students.

You stated in the Chicago Flame that you plan to "prove to everyone else that we [USG] can unite and work together." How do you plan to do that, in light of three consequent resignations?



USG President Rasha Atallah

Well, our committees are amazing. We are almost full in this coming meeting. We have more prospective members looking to be voted in rather than Chairs available. So that shows in light of the situation, we are still thriving. Also, each of our committees has multiple projects going on with new and improved members to give each project their best.

UIC is a very diverse institution – how do you relate to all the undergraduate students?

One of our committees is actually called Cultural Affairs, so through movies we like to address different cultural issues and make sure there is a comfortable environment to address these topics. Through our stand-up comedy show, we are trying to get comedians that different ethnicities will be interested in, as opposed to one type of comedian. So that's part of our goal to reach out to different cultures.

What steps will you take to actively promote student interest and participation in the USG's decisions and elections?

elections?

We have been telling the administration different ways to get students involved and it has worked since we have had an increased number of voters in the last election than we had in previous years, as well as the number of students who run for student government who are not even in government. So clearly, people are hearing about USG through our website, through our events, and have been interested in coming to us to learn more about how they can get involved and join as well as elections. Like I said, by the end of this week we are going to have a full assembly and that doesn't happen till the end of the year. So that's a really good sign.

The Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Barbra Henley stated that "Brett has been an outstanding leader of USG." How will your administration differ in policy and style, and what changes should we expect with the USG?

I would like for more of our members to be involved in the administration as opposed to just the president and the board, because I think it's important for future members of USG to know the administration and have those contacts to ensure a smooth transition from year to year and board to board. I think so far we have a great relationship with the administration and they take us very seriously. For example, we have student members on the Building and Planning Committee that are renovating the halls. So they take our students advice seriously in consideration for the building plans.

In a broader context, Senator Obama's ties with Professor William Ayers have brought UIC into the political spotlight. As the president of UIC's student body, what are your comments to the undergraduate students? Our university is lucky to have professors that are well-known in the political world, whether they agree or disagree with the student's personal views. It is nice to know that we have such vocal professors and people that have had an impact in the political world.

Finally, as the new USG President, what impression would you like to leave with our students?

A good one! I would like to say that I am confident in our assembly and in our plans for this year. We're going to be growing and reach-

(Continued on page 8)

OBAMAPALOOZA: A RALLY OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS

JOEL EBERT

At several times during his campaign for the presidency, Barack Obama surprised both critics and supporters. While he opted out of the program to publicly finance his campaign, Obama raised a record number of donations each month, culminating in September when he received more than \$150 million. Approximately one month before the Democratic National Convention, Obama decided to move his acceptance speech to a football stadium that could accommodate 75,000. In a similar fashion, with less than two weeks before Election Day, Obama announced that he would hold a rally in Chicago's Grant Park on the eve of the election.

Though much of the logistics of the event weren't settled until one week prior to Election Day (including ticket distribution), the rally was largely a success. With 70,000 people gaining access to the main area of the park via tickets, the total number people that attended the rally was estimated to exceed 200,000. The campaign organized another area for people without tickets to watch on a jumbo screen as the night unfolded. Although a handful of cities around the nation prepared for the possibility of a riot, whether Obama or McCain won, the police in Chicago seemed at relative ease, perhaps in an attempt to further the city's efforts to bring the Olympic Games to Chicago.

Throughout much of the evening, the overall mood of the rally was celebratory before the results of the election were even determined. Thousands of cheerful and excitable people streamed through the streets of downtown Chicago to gather



Enthusiastic ralliers in Grant Park

around the access bridge to Grant Park. People came from all over the country, seeing the rally as the culmination of the arduous election that had lasted nearly two years.

As the audience watched the jumbo screens with immense anticipation, they cheered and jeered when CNN made a projection on the results of a state, depending on whether Obama or McCain won. At 10 p.m. when CNN announced Obama as the winner, the crowd erupted. As the night pressed on and the anticipation of being at the front gates of a historical event continued, people seemed to take it all in and breathe a collective breath of fresh air while expelling exuberant cheers and impassioned tears.

When Obama finally emerged to address the crowd, he was met with anxious applause and patient listening. The audience seemed to collectively revel in the fact that while the election was over and history had been made, they were part of something really unique.

After his speech concluded, I sat with my friend who invited me to attend the rally and watched the complacent audience exit. In a moment reminiscent of the feeling one has after watching a movie, when you aren't sure who will talk first, we watched the audience and wondered whether they believed the job was over. History has a way of making those involved feel a sense of self-gratification. While history has undeniably been made with the election of Barack Obama, the true battle has only just begun. The members of the movement and those that followed this election closely must remember this in the coming months.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (2506 University Hall) works with students on not only scholarships, but future plans – especially if there are awards to support those endeavors!!!

Juniors – Starting to wonder what you want to do after you graduate? Take a gap year? Do some research? Teach some English? Come in to OSSP early – many national scholarships have fall deadlines, and these applications are best prepared when you begin to think about them **SPRING SEMESTER OF JUNIOR YEAR**. Make an appointment with Beth Powers to discuss options.

Students wanting to go abroad – Start planning early! Go to the Study Abroad Office (502 UH) and attend a first step to find out what it's all about. Consider a Foreign Exchange, and visit the coordinator in the Office of International Affairs (509 UH) to see if that's possible, too. Then, come to OSSP to determine what funding is out there for your travels! Make an appointment with Amanda Harrison to explore your possibilities.

Thinking it will be easier to sit down and think about scholarships after the semester is over? OSSP is open over winter break (closed December 25-January 2) during regular hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:45. You can make an appointment during this time, visit our scholarship library (no appointment necessary) and start a conversation about what the upcoming months, semesters, and years of your life will begin to look like!

Office of Special Scholarship Programs – 2506 University Hall – 312.355.2477 – ssp@uic.edu – <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp>

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS BARACK GRANT PARK!

Honors College students were asked to share their impressions and thoughts about the historic rally in Grant Park on Election Night. Here is what they had to say:

I went to the Chicago rally for Obama with my brother. I didn't have a ticket, but there were plenty of people who didn't. We were watching the election results from CNN on a big screen. Every time Obama won a state, there were cheers. Boos for McCain, though. I'm actually really surprised that Obama won Virginia and North Carolina. And freaking Florida! When the next projection (with California, Ohio, and a few others) was coming in, we were counting down from 60 seconds...then 10, 9, 8...3, 2, 1, then "Barack Obama elected President." Thousands of cheers erupted. Fists of victory flew into the air, and everyone was jumping up and down, shouting themselves hoarse, chanting "O-BA-MA!" and "YES WE CAN!" It was amazing.

As I watched his speech (props to McCain too, that was a respectful concession speech), I realized that we were all watching history right there. What he said was truly inspiring. Even though there's a lot I don't agree on with Obama, I believe, I can see, that he is a man who really wants to change the world. Even as we were celebrating, he wanted to start the change right now - and change IS happening now. It's not just America that's rejoicing, but people in countries around the world as well. This message of hope and change that the campaign was built on has proven true. I've never been so proud of America as now. And not just that, but he is the first African American president. The racial barrier has been broken!"

Natalie Kryzanowski, Junior, Physics

The rally was amazing. The atmosphere, everyone there, was indescribable. There were so many people standing in Grant Park watching a jumbotron for hours just to support Obama. When his victory was announced on CNN, the crowd went crazy. Everyone was jumping and screaming and hugging everyone else around them. Many people were crying because they were so happy.

Susan Colegrove, Freshman, Anthropology

Standing in Grant Park Tuesday night amid the hundreds of thousands of supporters was an amazing experience. The feeling of the rally is nearly indescribable, everywhere you looked you saw waves of smiles and tears of joy amid a sea of people of every age and color. Before the announcement was made the scene was loud, afterward it was simply deafening. The chants of "Obama," and "We did it," were still ringing in my ears two days later.

But the most magical moment occurred around 11pm, when the President-Elect himself stepped onto the stage and his image glowed on the many enormous screens scattered across the park. In that instant every man, woman, and child fell silent. It was surreal, like a storm disappearing before your very eyes the jubilant mob - which extended as far as the eye could see - suddenly retreated into quiet anticipation. From where I stood I could probably have heard a pin-drop, the wind did not even blow loud enough to be heard. And from that moment until the end of his powerful speech the only noises were the collective shouts of approval whose echoes boomed off the brick-fronts of Michigan Avenue and pounded right back into the hearts of everyone in the park. I will never forget the feelings of happiness and achievement, nor the experience of standing shoulder to shoulder with thousands of strangers gathered for one cause: Obama, the future of America.

Thaddeus James Maguire, Sophomore, Biochemistry

The earth shook and the heavens parted, and suddenly the world would never be the same again. It's still so surreal... waking up to a world where our voices actually effected change. I think about the profound significance of this epic moment in time, and I'm humbled to have been a part of it.

Jessica Fermin, Junior, Nursing

I went to Grant Park to support Barack Obama on Tuesday night and it was an amazing experience. I sat for five hours in front of a jumbo-tron, awaiting the election results. Every time Obama won a state, the crowd screamed and yelled. When CNN announced that he won, it was insanity. People screamed, danced, cried. His speech was amazing, and being able to hear the crowd chant "Yes We Can" with our new president was truly inspiring. Millions came to support the change we need for this country, we made our voices heard, and I am very proud to be part of it!!!!

Jennifer Wolff, Freshman, Psychology

My friends and I had first seen Obama during a rally at UIC Pavilion the day after he declared his bid for presidency back in early 2007. Almost two years later, I can only say it was fitting that we saw him successfully finish.

Anand Sandesara, Senior, History

GLASS CASTLE AUTHOR MAKES QUITE AN IMPRESSION

NILAY SHAH

It was evident going around the room that everyone had reached a consensus; one by one, students, advisers, and deans alike voiced their unequivocal praise for Jeannette Walls and her memoir, *The Glass Castle*.

"It was so good, I gave a copy to my mother to read. She loved it!" one student said. Others agreed, as they told stories of how everyone they mentioned in this book loved it. I personally had read Walls' *The Glass Castle* months before she came to UIC and the Honors College on Thursday and Friday, September 18th & 19th. I gave copies to friends, my brother, and my parents to read. Not surprisingly, each had only praise to give for Walls' writing and her book.

The *Glass Castle* is a compelling, wholly unique tale of Walls' personal journey through the obstacles in her life. Her story centers around herself and her relationships with her parents, who, in a unique display of independence and stubborn nonconformity, choose willingly to live their lives in a state of poverty. Walls' tumultuous childhood involved frequent "skeddaddling" - meaning, quickly picking up and moving away at the first sign of Walls' parents being recognized and possibly caught by the authorities. Often, her parents were not present; her father drank, and disappeared for days, and her mother often expressed her disdain for childrearing, and being tied down to anything in any way. And yet, this was hardly a tale, but instead a true story of personal growth and realization, and of success in the face of tremendous challenge. Through the obstacles she faced while growing up, including an unstable family support system and the responsibility she had to shoulder in her family at an early age, Walls became successful in her life and career.

Jeannette Walls makes a tremendous first impression. At once, her audience sitting in the Honors College lounge was captivated by her engaging presence, making her personal story seem familiar, and so real that one would almost believe it could happen to

anyone. And despite the incredulity with which I first approached the story she told in her book, I realized immediately the sincerity with which Walls recounted her tale, and found her tenacity to be especially impressive.



Shauna Gunaratne,
Jeannette Walls, & Nilay Shah

Her mantra of focusing on the positive was particularly clear, and often questions arose as to whether Walls resented her parents for her transient childhood. Instead of anger, however, Walls describes her parents from a fair perspective, and has tried to understand their point of view. Many of her critics, as Walls mentioned, believe that she needs therapy because she is in denial of her childhood; however, Walls described the writing of her book as cathartic. She does not find it weird that people who read her book know every detail of her life, and instead described how she was compelled to tell her story. As a newspaper columnist in New York City, she described how she felt hypocritical pursuing other people's stories while hiding her own.

"This story could only happen in America," Walls said as she described her current relationship with her mother and siblings, how she chose to relinquish responsibility of caring after her parents, and how she recounted her story of overcoming the difficulties in her life. The students who came to listen to her speak were intrigued by the uniqueness of her story. Questions were most often asked about her current relationship with her family, and the reaction of her family to her writing.

Assigned as the freshman summer reading for this fall, *The Glass Castle* is a unique insight into the diversity of American life. The number of students who showed up to hear Jeannette Walls speak shows just how valuable and powerful her story was. Hosting Jeannette Walls at UIC and the Honors College allowed many students to learn more about this inspiring person, and her visit to the Honors College

was a great success.



Jeannette Walls graciously
autographs a copy of her book
for Ben Schwarz

DID YOU MISS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HONORS COLLEGE...

JOSEPH ESPARAZ

With another set of midterms arriving and going, the students of the Honors College seemed restless. This signaled a prime time opportunity for two of the many HCAB theatre outings. This year, HCAB choose the ever-popular *Wicked*, not once but twice, and the well-known *Jersey Boys* for the shows. Each time tickets were offered, the students waited eagerly, praying to get a hold of these sought-after tickets. Each theatre outing was sold out in less than an hour—"a flash in HCAB's perspective."

But, if theatres weren't your "thing," HCAB had its hands on tickets for the Chicago Bulls Home Opener. A group of sports-enthusiasts joined up with some fellow HCAB members and had a short trek to the United Center. Cheering on the home team was amazing, and it seemed like the best way to get out of campus life for a night.

With such a busy schedule already, HCAB decided to also bring an "Indian Themed Luncheon" to the Honors College, featuring Indian Cuisine from Taj Mahal Restaurant on Taylor St. This well anticipated luncheon wasn't just a way to have a free lunch, but was a great way for students to mingle with fellow students as well as Honors College Faculty. Hungry honors students began lining up outside the Lounge fifteen minutes prior to opening. When asking for feedback, many students told us that this was their first time

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FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR. SLOAN WILLIAMS

HILARY LEATHEM

Dr. Sloan Williams, associate professor of anthropology, is extremely well-traveled and likes it that way. Having grown up in multiple locales across the US since her father was in the Navy, she spent her elementary school days in Calgary, Canada, her middle school years in San Francisco, and spent her entire high school education in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For her undergraduate degree and master's, Williams attended the University of Missouri and majored in biology up until the end of her junior year, when she finally made the switch to anthropology. Though it would then seem she didn't have much practical experience in anthropology until her graduate years, the reality is quite on the contrary. After her freshman year at the University of Missouri, she signed up for a field school in western Pennsylvania working on an Iroquois site to earn more credit hours.

Williams enjoyed her experience so much, that the following summer and the summer after that, she found herself a job doing contract archaeology. She went on to continue that tradition each summer until she finished her degrees.

"[Contract archaeology] basically funded my schooling. I got paid very well *and* I got to travel." Her experience and love of traveling plays an important role in her field, since she currently divides her time between Chicago, Peru, and Kenya.

Williams is a bioarchaeologist; that is, instead of focusing on the material left behind at site, she focuses on the human remains in order to gain a clearer picture of the society. "I was always more interested in excavating burials and graves. I'm not really fascinated by rocks. Humans have always interested me more."

Upon this realization, Williams applied to Northwestern University to do her graduate work with the prolific Dr. Jane Buikstra. "At this point," Williams stated, "She was just beginning to get interested in Peru."

So Williams went on to complete extensive work in Peru, focusing specifically on the skeletal biology of Estuquiña, a pre-Inca population. In her dissertation, Williams explores the frequency of tuberculosis and infectious disease in the Estuquiña.

Williams explained that her interest in skeletal biology never wavered, but a new subject eventually peaked her interest: DNA. Although it began with studying ancient DNA in Peru, she eventually switched to modern genetics in humans. In fact, at the moment, Williams is involved in a project with Dr. Chapurukha M. Kusimba of the Field Museum, where they will be analyzing genetic patterns in Kenya.

Currently, Williams is not only a Honors College Fellow, but a dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Science. On the importance of her role as a fellow, Williams said, "UIC is such a big school, so it's easy to get lost. The nice thing about having a fellow is that at least one person will know you."

Her advice to Honors students considering graduate school was, "Try to get actual experience." For example, in the case of archaeology, field work is important to do. "A lot of people," laughed Williams, "think they will like it and then freak."



Dr. Sloan Williams, associate professor of anthropology

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Prashansa Sharma & Milan Patel await the luncheon crowds

having Indian food and that they were extremely excited for HCAB to be offering such a cultural event. The food was amazing, making both students and faculty come back for seconds. By judging from the "stuffed looks" on everyone's faces, the luncheon was definitely a success.

Luckily, with all of these events, HCAB was able to bring in two new Freshman Representatives. This year, Anu Bommakanti and Sylwia Pawlowska are the two new freshman that have joined the HCAB family. These new members have jumped right in, giving valuable input, as well as performing various tasks for HCAB committees.

With the end of the semester near and the dreaded finals week in sight, keep a look out for more upcoming HCAB events!



Joe Esparaz serves up samosas & naan to another hungry Honors College student

We Want to Hear
from YOU!

Are you interested in
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A GREAT YEAR FOR ASB'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

ANAND SANDESARA

To celebrate Alternative Spring Break's 10th anniversary, the ASB board hosted its annual silent auction in the Montgomery Ward Lounge on November 6, 2008. The unmistakable bright yellow shirts of ASB members could be seen running around the lounge and most of Student Center East for hours, attracting hundreds of bidders to the event. While ASB has traditionally held a live auction as well, it was decided that this year all items would be open to silent bidding from noon to 6:30 PM.

Items were arranged on twenty tables which were appropriately grouped into categories such as sports, health and wellness, apparel, music, home décor, restaurants, and more. In the background, a slideshow was running nonstop, displaying images of ASB service trips over the last decade. Free food was served to UIC students, faculty, and staff as board members held impromptu information sessions on the mission of Alternative Spring Break. Seeing so many people browsing the auction tables was truly a sight, for all of our hard work had paid off. The Honors College showed up in full force to support our cause, which was much appreciated.

However, it had been no easy task putting the event together. Although we had started our fundraising efforts early on, our prospects seemed bleak. As the economy continued to crumble with each passing week, our situation was beginning to look more and more hopeless. Businesses would be called, re-called, and called yet again, but to no avail. It simply was not a good time for donations, we were told.

But with five weeks remaining before the auction, the ASB board went into its highest gear, and by the first week of November, we had managed to accumulate nearly 200 donated items. We received bar packages, shopping parties, test prep courses, cruise tours, comedy club passes, theater tickets, artwork, vintage records, Chicago sports memorabilia, UIC apparel, free massages, furniture, and gift certificates from more than fifty Chicago-area restaurants. Our most popular items included a horse and carriage ride around downtown as well as a Kaplan classroom course.

As 6:30 rolled around, bidding came to an end as everyone scrambled in to get their final bid. At the end of the night, we calculated our earnings, and they totaled to an astounding \$8520, almost double our goal. Added to our other fundraising efforts of the semester, Alternative Spring Break has collected a record-breaking \$17,000 since August.

Because of the incredible amount of money raised, ASB will be sending out 8 service trips this winter and an additional ten in the spring. This winter, teams of UIC students will be traveling to the following locations to volunteer with a wide range of issues:

Philadelphia, PA: HIV/AIDS and life-threatening illnesses with MANNA
Eagle Butte, SD: Native American poverty and housing with Habitat for Humanity
New Orleans, LA: Hurricane Relief with Operation Helping Hands
Asheville, NC: Rural Poverty with Mountain Housing Opportunities
San Juan, TX: Migrant workers with LUPE
Kansas City, MO: Children in poverty with Operation Breakthrough
St. Louis, MO: Homelessness with Centenary CARES
Blakely, GA: Environmental Preservation with The Nature Conservancy

Thank you to all of the supporters of ASB for making this year a huge success! If you did not get a chance to apply for a winter trip this year, check out our website www.asbuic.org in February of 2009 for a chance to go on a spring break trip.

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ing out to as many students as possible to get their voices heard, and I hope that anyone that has any interest with student life, campus life, or anything that they would like to see done on campus knows that we encourage them to contact us and come to our meetings. We're here for you, and most of our ideas have come from students. So we want students to get involved, and I am confident for the future of student government.