

# THE AMPERSAND

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## A Note From Dean Bottoms

Dear Students, Faculty, and Friends:

Welcome to Spring Semester! Even though the weather is still cold, spring is coming, and with it comes the usual Honors College activities as well as new events and new faces. For example, many of the Saturdays over the next two months will be dedicated to admissions interviews for prospective Honors College freshmen. The college is always so grateful to the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who come out to help recruit next year's Honors students. Please contact us if you'd like to help.

Of course, don't forget the biggest social event of the year: On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Honors College Ball will take place; tickets are on sale now in the Honors College or from any HCAB member. Also, mark your calendars for the next student/faculty luncheon on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, please support the college by attending the Student Research Forum where Honors students will present their research projects. I am so proud of the creative work our students are doing, especially for their Senior Capstone projects – and you will be too. Importantly, more and more of this work is being directly funded by the Honors College: Last semester, because of the generosity of donors, we were able

to award \$22,000 to support the research of 43 Honors students across a wide variety of disciplines.



Dean Bette L. Bottoms

Finally, if you drop by the college these days, you'll see some exciting changes. I'm delighted to welcome several new faces to the Honors College staff – you'll read about many of them in this issue. Also, we've done some minor renovations to our home in Burnham to make better use of our space, creating new office space needed to accommodate the added administrative responsibilities associated with a growing college. That is, the college is now happy to call itself home to over 1450 students – up from 1200 a few years ago.

I look forward to seeing you all at these upcoming events – please have a wonderful semester!

**-Dean Bottoms**



## Upcoming Events:

**18th Annual Honors College Ball**— February 26, 6:00 PM - 11:45 PM at the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel Chicago

**Honors College Student/Faculty Luncheon**—March 15, 11:00 AM in BH

**UIC Student Research Forum**—April 19, 1:00 PM

**Honors College Faculty Fellows Reception**—April 28, 4:00 PM in BH

**Honors College Convocation**—May 4, 5:30 PM in UIC Forum

Please go to <http://www.uic.edu/htbin/eventcal/eventcal.fcgi> for all general UIC events.

## The Ball is Rolling!

The biggest Honors College event of the year is coming up this month! It's the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Honors College Ball on **Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**. Round up a group of friends for a night of dancing, food and lots of fun! You can ask that special Valentine or just come with a group of your best buds. The ball this year is at the beautiful Knickerbocker Hotel and the theme is "Unmask the Night." This is a great opportunity to dress up and get out with friends. Our professors will be there, so make sure to invite your fellow, too! And who knows, maybe you'll catch a glimpse of Dean Bottoms cutting the rug.

One of the main reasons we host the ball is to raise money for a scholarship available exclusively to Honors College students. So, if you are involved and active in the Honors College, apply for the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) Scholarship. The winner is announced at the ball- another reason the Ball is something you won't want to miss. For more information about applying for the HCAB Scholarship stop by the front desk.



*This Year's HCAB board*

We have other fun activities planned for this semester. Stop by the Honors College Lounge **Wednesday February, 23** to make your mask for the ball. It will be a Mardi Gras celebration complete with food. Also, keep your ears open for tickets to Disney's *Peter Pan* on stage and everybody's favorite Honors College Luncheon. There are lots of exciting opportunities this semester especially for you from your Honors College Advisory Board.

**-Krishna Patel**

Member-at-Large, Honors College Advisory Board

## Congratulations to the Mock Trial Team!

UIC's nationally-ranked Mock Trial Team took the 2nd place trophy at the Illini Invitational the weekend of January 23rd, going undefeated with 5 wins and 3 ties. Peter Korbakes won the Outstanding Witness Award with a perfect 20 ranks, Tony Hatzilabreu won an Outstanding Attorney Award with 18 ranks, and team captain Rob O'Malley received his 10th Outstanding Attorney Award with a perfect 20 ranks. The team used this invitational as a warm up for their regional competition, which is to be held at the end of the month in South Bend, IN.



## HC Student Julianne Faust is selected to present paper at International Conference on Eating Disorders

Recently, HC Undergraduate Julianne Faust was selected to present her paper at The Academy of Eating Disorders Conference, to be held April 28th through the 30th in Miami, Florida this year. The paper is titled "Resumption of Menses in Relation to Ideal Body Weight and Other Psychosocial Factors in Adolescent Anorexia Nervosa". It is a project that looks at adolescents who went through a treatment study designed to compare two different types of treatment (family based therapy and individual psychotherapy). Julianne is looking at whether using 100% of ideal body weight for a treatment goal is an appropriate target. She is using resumption of menses as a signal of health in order to find out the best ideal body weight percentage that predicts resumption of menses, hopefully indicating that the patient is healthy.

Julianne, an Applied Psychology major, began her work on this project at the beginning of this academic school year under her research adviser, Dr. Daniel le Grange, the Clinical Director at the University of Chicago's Eating and Weight Disorder Program and a very well-known expert in treatment research for adolescents with eating disorders. He is known for his work with the Maudsley Method, a unique treatment approach for adolescents that utilizes the family as an important tool to overcome the eating disorder. Her research adviser at UIC is Dr. Stewart Shankman. Julianne is also a Fulbright Finalist, and has tentative plans to travel to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario to study research in treatment applications and epidemiological work in the field of eating-disorders. As for her future plans, she intends to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology after taking some time off to get more experience in research and clinical work.

Let us congratulate Julianne on her success!

# Introducing Your New HC Staff in Four Interviews

## Sarah Gardiner, Assistant to the Dean

*-Where did you work prior to UIC and the Honors College?*

After completing my graduate degree at Ball State University, I worked at Illinois Institute of Art at Chicago as an Academic Advisor before working as an Academic Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIC for four years.

*-Why did you come to the Honors College?*

I had been helping out with different activities with the Honors College, interviewing applicants for admission, and assisting OSSP with Honors College Scholarship selections. After working as an Academic Advisor in LAS, I was ready for a new challenge. The Honors College was the perfect opportunity.

*-What do you like about UIC and working in the Honors College thus far?*

Over the years, I've grown to love this campus and its commitment to service. The Honors College highlights the best UIC has to offer. I am highly enthusiastic about working here because I have an opportunity to personally connect with students and staff, and the challenges and problems that the Honors College may present me with truly reinvigorate this passion. I can't wait to see what is next.

*-What are your goals to accomplish for the future?*

I really look forward to constantly creating a better experience for students, noticing new trends and changes, and responding in exciting ways. I wish to fulfill the college experience that students are expecting, and then some.

*-Any interesting facts about yourself?*

I took then unknown football star Tony Romo on an admissions tour when I was a student at Eastern Illinois University. I live in Aurora with my husband Channing, my dog Bernie, and my cat Nick.

## Fiona O'Conner, Assistant to the Dean

*-Where did you work prior to UIC and the Honors College?*

After being a stay-at-home mom for nine years, I felt the need to reacquaint myself with the "adult world." Before raising my children, I worked in a corporate atmosphere.

*-Why did you come to UIC?*

As an alum of UIC with a BA in English, I was interested in giving back to my alma mater. I had a great educational experience, as well as many friends and family that work at UIC as well.

*-What were your first impressions of UIC and the Honors College?*

I realize how much UIC has changed in the 20 years I have been away. I immediately felt a great vibe when I walked into the doors of the Honors College. I enjoy being around passionate and outgoing students, not just in the Honors College, but also in the entire University.

*-What are your goals to accomplish for the future?*

I hope to continue to work in building close-knit relationships with students. I wish to be able to answer any questions that students might have, assist in the entire planning process, and just become a life mentor. I hope that students will come to feel very comfortable with me.

*-Any interesting facts about yourself?*

I was in a nationally televised yogurt commercial. I have a nine-year-old daughter and a five-year-old son. I live in Edgewater.



Sarah Gardiner



Fiona O'Conner

## Staff Interviews (cont.)

### Eliza Ycas, Assistant to the Dean

*-Where did you work prior to UIC and the Honors College?*

I worked at Georgetown University with the Department of Nursing.

*-Why did you come to UIC and what do you like about UIC and the Honors College so far?*

I came to UIC because I wanted to move to Chicago since I had lived in Washington D.C. my entire life, and I also wanted to work in a public university. So far, I really like it here. Everyone here has been really helpful and really great!

*-What were your first impressions of UIC and the Honors College?*

UIC is very large in terms of space and number of people, but the Honors College especially felt small since everyone knew each other. Definitely a positive first experience.

*-What are your goals to accomplish for the future?*

Now that I've had the experience of matching students to their fellows, I want to improve the process to make it smoother and to find more fellows on West Campus since many of our students are interested in those educational programs.

*-Any interesting facts about yourself?*

I used to live down the street from the Pentagon, and at another home when I walked out the door I could see the Washington Monument.



Eliza Ycas

### Gerardo "Jerry" Jimenez, Director of Management and Resource Planning

*-Where did you work prior to UIC and the Honors College?*

I've been working at UIC for five years; prior to this job I was in the English department for two years and the College of Business for three years. Before UIC, I had an internship with the Department of State.

*-Why did you come to UIC and what do you like about UIC and the Honors College so far?*

What brought me to this job was the fact that I would be working with undergraduate students since I've only worked with graduate students in the past. It's been very rewarding meeting with and interacting with undergrads, and managing budgets for student groups.

*-What were your first impressions of UIC and the Honors College?*

It's very home-like. It's a very welcoming environment and it's nice to see a lot of the students around in the Honors College, so it was quite different from previous experiences.

*-What are your goals to accomplish for the future?*

I wish to better understand the needs of the students, and since I manage the resources, I want to get a better grasp of the student experience and make it more enjoyable for the students.

*-Any interesting facts about yourself?*

While in college, I played club volleyball and my team was ranked third in the country, and I studied abroad in South America. I also have a goal to visit all 50 states before I'm 35.



Jerry Jimenez

**- Conducted by Alex Kim & Saif Ali**

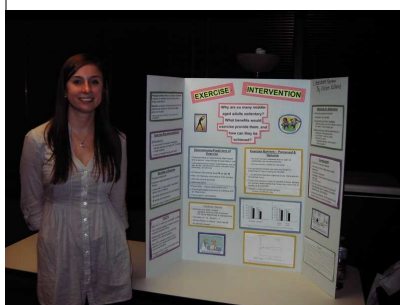
## Featured Capstone Project: a Ligand for MCF-7 Against E-Selectin

My search for a research lab began by browsing the Honors College URA website for research topics that interested me. After meeting various professors for interviews, I finally found a research lab—the Laboratory for Polymeric Nanomaterials in Biological Sciences headed by Dr. Seungpyo Hong—that spurred my interest. Specifically, a project specializing in circulating tumor cell capture whose research is ongoing. In this project, cells are captured with E-selectin, an adhesive glycoprotein expressed on endothelial cells that can cause cell rolling. Cell rolling is the initial step of transmigration of circulating tumor cells from blood. The interaction between E-selectin and MCF-7, breast cancer cell line, is well-known. However, the ligand that might cause the rolling of MCF-7 cells on E-selectin immobilized surface has not been identified yet. Thus, I was working on examining the CD24, one of the surface markers of MCF-7 cells, as a ligand of MCF-7 cells against E-selectin. The interaction between E-selectin immobilized on slide and CD24 antibody-treated MCF-7 cells was examined using a flow chamber. Furthermore, this interaction was confirmed by conducting flow chamber-based experiments with microspheres coated with recombinant human CD24 molecules. Based on these flow chamber experiments and other additional experiments such as a binding assay, CD24 was found to be a ligand against E-selection. This novel discovery, which can aid in cancer treatment, was recently published in *Analytical Chemistry*.

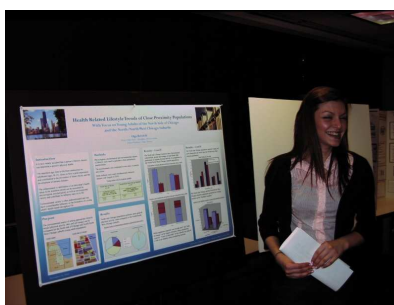
After completing the project, I began the most difficult part of Capstone project, writing a paper. It took many revisions to write a concise, scientific research paper about the novel discovery of ligand for MCF-7 against E-selectin. Relatively, preparing the poster was much easier as it only required presenting the data that was obtained in graphical manner. Making presentation about the project was extremely challenging. While presenting, I was unaware of the diverse academic backgrounds of all the participants, which made it harder to explain the project. Although faculty understood the project, I had to break down the advanced topics into a much simpler form for freshman students. Even though presenting in front of variety of audiences brought extreme nervousness, the overall Capstone project was a great learning experience. The most challenging part of research lab was time management; I had to adjust to unusual experiment schedules that were planned on Saturdays, for example. Even if there was any experiment scheduled, I had to spend time reading various literature papers regarding the topic. This was not easy as initially I had hard time understanding the scientific language. Hence, I had to google many concepts and words that were used in the article. Volunteering in lab started only to fulfill Capstone requirement but today after graduation I am working in the same research lab; the experience of working in research lab even led to me think about a future PharmD and PhD program.

-Kyathi Gajjar

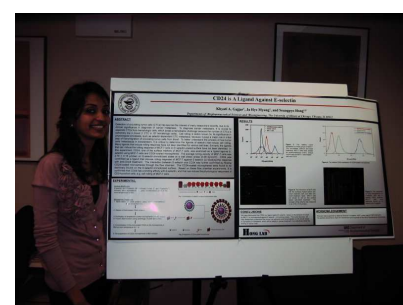
### Photos from the HC Fall Research Forum



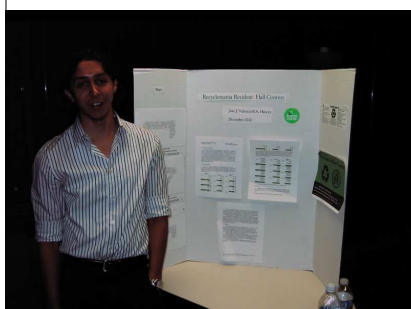
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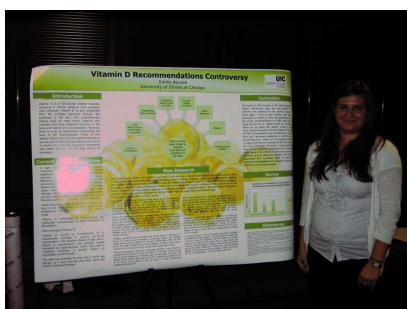
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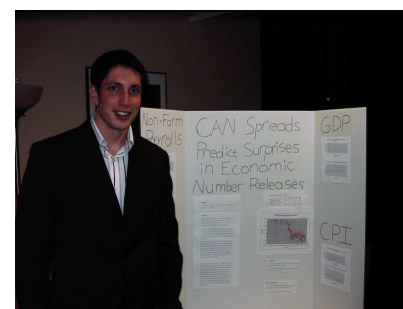
Kyathi Gajjar



Jose Valencia



Emilia Baczek



Dan Passarelli

## Let's Get Down to Business, but First, Some Chai

A note to the reader:

This is a continuation of my narrative concerning the trip I made after being away for 10 years to my birthplace Hyderabad, India. There are certain lessons I have learned from that trip that have broadened my perception of the world. In the previous issue of the Ampersand, some of these insights and observations inspired by living in a complex environment were divulged. I urge you to read my previous submission before continuing ahead with this piece so that you have a more complete understanding of my experiences.

I was surrounded by footwear. I spent a significant amount of my vacation as a guest salesman in the two stores owned by my uncles, which were adjacent and shared a common wall. They were the first stores in a line of at least a hundred or so that crowded the sides of the main road. The market was amidst the ever present honks of cars and scooters, creating a melody of beeps and revs. The shoe market was encountered first by people on their way to the old city center which contained a variety of restaurants, fruit and vegetable markets, clothing stores, and more. All shops were on the ground level and caved within the building such that even the largest were no bigger than two rooms and two stories high; they were closed with shutters at the end of the day.



A rooftop view of Hyderabad

My role this past summer in the business emerged when I decided to take a tour of my uncles' daily lives. When I reached the market, my mind was boggled. A plethora of stores existed successfully in the same location. My words are not enough to paint the complexity of the market. I hope the magnitude of this socioeconomic phenomenon is apparent. The market is laid out like a grid, where the edges hug the main road, displaying retail stores, while within the space of this grid is a veritable maze of wholesale retailers, outlined by narrow pathways just wide enough for people to tread by foot. Also, realize that these stores within the grid are tiny, encompassing no more room than a store in a mall, yet, there are huge quantities of footwear being moved through them like clockwork.

The shops owned by my uncles were second tier businesses. They sold shoes in retail, took part in wholesale to wholesale (where shoes were distributed to other retailers), and when in demand, bought shoes directly from the manufacturer. My family's involvement into the shoe industry spans over 60 years beginning from my great-grandfather, Mohammed Abdul Raheem, who began a clothing store, which failed. Later he turned his business focus to footwear, thereby creating "M.A.R. Footwear." Eventually, as the family grew, the business was split. So, where there used to be just one "M.A.R. Footwear," there now exists a "Bright Shoe Mart" alongside it.

So, I decided to stick around and learn the ways of the business. The process was multifaceted and much more social than economic. The key to a successful business in Hyderabad was having good relations and an honest reputation with associates while maintaining a professional relationship with one's workers. Of course, understanding the margins of profit and dynamics of the trade was essential. These rules obviously did not apply to me; I frequently chatted up my uncle's workers and had sales competitions with them. Incidentally, one day, a group of American tourists wandered near our store and I was able to keep them in the store long enough to make half the day's profit. It helped that I could speak fluent English, but, it doesn't detract from the fact that I discovered a natural flair for salesmanship!

Interestingly, there was minimal business regulation. Businesses were governed by individual authority and influence. For example, regular visits had to be paid to associates at their business locations to keep the payments coming in on time. When potential customers arrived, storeowners were not obsessed with competition. Business was for subsistence only. Greed was not the driving factor, basic needs were. Interestingly, storeowners, if out of stock, would actually promote other stores if a customer was in need. Modest business, with minimal greed, seemed to be the ideal solution for the crowded market. It was a beautiful, harmonious, communal effort where the large number of stores in a crowded area found a balance. Daily life in this system was enjoyable and it revealed quite a bit about how cultural values shaped the type of work and how much work one does. The schedule was not hectic and was flexible, unlike what I've observed thus far in living in the U.S. Regular breaks were taken during the day for prayers and lunch. Sales were carried out by bargaining, and customers, especially high end customers (such as American tourists), were treated cordially and sometimes with chai (tea, milk, sugar, etc.). Celebratory Chai breaks were common and an enjoyable part of the day. I took pleasure in dealing with customers and realizing the level of enjoyment one could attain in living such a life. The shoe market of India was a socio-economic spectacle which revealed the beauty of life in an environment that promotes communality, respect, and a shared belief that everyone should at least garner a profit enough to maintain a life of subsistence.

-Saif Ali

## Featured Honors Course: Hon 126



Professor George Roe

The course Honors 126, Crime and Punishment in Ancient Rome, is being taught for the first time this semester by Business Professor George Roe. Professor Roe is a highly qualified graduate professor who has won numerous awards including the Silver Circle Teaching Award twice, MSA Professor of the Year award in 2007 and in 2010, the Outstanding Educator of the Year award in 2006, and Professor of the Year Award recently. This class is linked with Honors 124, Violence in Society, taught by Professor Nancy Cirillo last semester, and students in Honors 126 come both from Honors 124 as well as from other classes.

Throughout the first three weeks of the semester, we have covered the history of Ancient Rome and have begun to expand our knowledge on the different forms of government over time as well as learn about the crimes and punishments associated with each. Weili Zhang, a student in this class, did not take the previous Honors 124 course, but is in this

Honors 126 class because he believes it will be interesting and different. When asked what he hopes to gain from this class, Weili replied, “just a more broad understanding of the world...it helps to know why some laws are in place... just basically opening up new perspectives”. Weili can relate to many students in the course when he comments that as

a pre-medicine student, he doesn't get much exposure to these types of classes. Although this course has an interesting subject line, without such an excellent professor it would not be as enjoyable as it has been. Dipali Patel says, “The professor, Dr. George Roe, is a great speaker and has much knowledge about the material studied. This makes the politics easier to understand and apply to current events.”

Applying the course to current events is exactly what is on the mind of the professor himself. Professor Roe comments that, “The objectives in a course like this are to accomplish a few things: first, to instill in the students a sense of a different time in a different culture as they view the development of law. Then, to be able to attempt to correlate their understanding of current day, say American, law as it might mirror or not mirror what happened 2500 years ago.” Just as learning about law is very different for many students in this class, teaching Freshmen is very different for Professor Roe. When asked about his experience so far, he says, “It's different. So far I've been pretty pleased. I realize that most of you haven't experienced anything like this before. At the same time, I have to admit that I haven't experienced guys like you before. So we're each kind of learning a little bit here...It's a good bunch and I'm having fun. Here's a rule I used to go by: if I'm having fun, then it's probably going pretty well. If I'm not having any fun, nobody else is either.” The fact that both the professor and the students find the class enjoyable and educational is a good indication of a continued excellent experience for the rest of the semester.

-Swathi Madugula

## Notable Lectures: Patricia Gurin on Leveraging America's Increasing Diversity

So often on college campuses, one hears terms such as diversity and affirmative action. But what exactly is all the fuss about? Why is diversity so important? What impact can diversity have on UIC's campus? On October 18<sup>th</sup>, at UIC Forum, none other but guest lecturer Patricia Gurin, who is well-known for providing an expert testimony during the Supreme Court case in defense of the University of Michigan's affirmative action policies, answered these questions in a lecture that was sponsored in part by the Honors College.

Gurin started off by establishing the reasons behind diversity's importance on college campuses. In her report, she argued that “diversity is crucially important in enabling [students] to become conscious learners and critical thinkers, and in preparing them to become active participants in a democratic society. Universities are ideal institutions to foster such development.” During her talk, she emphasized that diversity is as essential as any other major institutional resource such as “a great library.” However, she was quick to follow up with the point that structural diversity by itself, merely the physical composition of people from different backgrounds, is not enough. Structural diversity is important as an initial step since it increases the probability of actual interaction across differences, but “it isn't” enough to just co-exist.” In a society that is becoming increasingly complex and heterogeneous, students “have to be able to deal with differences.”



Dr. Pat Gurin

Upon first arriving on UIC's campus, Gurin admitted that she was impressed. From the seemingly endless list of specific student cultural groups to the apparent diversity of the student body perceived with a quick glance around the quad, it is undeniable that UIC possesses a high level of structural diversity. However, she also noticed that students around campus tend to associate largely in their own ethnic groups. While this noticeable association of students in homogenous groups might intuitively seem to go against the goal of leveraging diversity on campus, Gurin made the interesting point that solidarity groups are actually beneficial to the process of diverse interactions. As a professor at the University of Michigan, she pioneered a course on Intergroup Dialogue meant to foster interaction between different social groups in order to gain a greater understanding of each other. —Continued on next page

## Notable Lectures, (cont)

The conditions of the dialogue group include equal numbers of people from different social groups, sustained and facilitated personal contact, a legitimate nature of the class by having an authority figure assist in the process, and a common goal of striving for greater understanding. During these Intergroup Dialogue courses, Gurin noticed that it was the students who had deeper understandings of their own identities who were better able to participate meaningfully when trying to understand the experiences of students outside their own social groups. Thus, Gurin concluded, interactions on campus must be “both-and.” Students must gain both a sense of their personal identity and an understanding of different perspectives in order “to live and work in a diverse society.” During the Fall semester of 2010, the Honors College piloted UIC’s first Intergroup Dialogue Course, taught by Drs. Donne Baptiste and Charu Takral as part of the Honors Core course offerings.

Later during her visit, Patricia Gurin attended a dinner event sponsored by Unifying Diversity, the student organization that strives to do just as their name suggests and one of the many sponsors of Gurin’s visit. After giving her viewpoints during the lecture, the dinner was Gurin’s chance to sit back and listen to what the members of Unifying Diversity had to offer. Students went around the room sharing with Gurin their unique experiences that drove each of them to join the organization. Members of Unifying Diversity were eager to gain any sort of advice or insight that Gurin could share from her multitude of previous experience working to promote diversity. Near the end of the dinner, after hearing what the students had to express, Gurin came up with a bold suggestion that the students embraced: writing a book. She looked around the room and said, “You may not have realized it yet, but you have some very powerful stories to share.” — Wenji Guo

## Featured Study Abroad Student: Rebecca Ginat’s experience in Jerusalem

As lovely as Chicago is to study and live in, there are many who dream of adventuring away to a foreign country for a while. Rebecca Ginat is one of those dreamers who had the opportunity to fulfill this wish and study for a semester abroad in Jerusalem, Israel. Rebecca is currently a senior majoring in Psychology and English who studied abroad during Spring 2010.

She actually used to live in Israel when she was younger, but “studying there was a completely different experience.” She studied at Rothberg International School, which is a part of Jerusalem’s Hebrew University. On the weekdays, she took enriching classes including “Architecture of Jerusalem” and “Christianity and Judaism in the Middle Ages” that really helped her understand the history of the city and appreciate it better. On the weekends, she went on the sight-seeing tours organized by the University. When Rebecca used to live in Israel, she passed by many historical pieces of art and architecture every day, but had no idea what they were. However, as a student going on these school trips, she was able to discover the names and significances of all these things, which she was very glad to finally be able to do. Jerusalem’s YMCA and the Western Wall are merely two examples. In addition to these organized trips, Rebecca also spent countless hours exploring the area with the friends she made on the trip. In fact, this was her favorite part. Exploring at her own leisure allowed her to fully experience “the meeting point of various cultures” that Jerusalem is. Overall, Rebecca greatly enjoyed her study abroad experience in Israel. Although she does say, “regardless of where you go, you will have wonderful stories to tell,” she was glad she picked Israel. She already knew Hebrew and so was able to interact with the people there very well, which she really enjoyed.

Rebecca highly recommends a study abroad experience for everyone who is interested, whether they know the language or not. She said that study abroad “really pushes you out of your comfort zone, and that is always a good thing.” She said that UIC was very helpful in helping her arrange her study abroad trip, and allowed her to live her dream of spending a delightful semester studying abroad in an exotic land.

—Chaitra Kishore



The Old City in Jerusalem—close to the Western Wall



Waiting for a bus in a small town called Mevo Modiin



At a friend’s wedding in Jerusalem

## Featured Honors Faculty Fellow: Dr. Malchow

2010 winner of the UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching, founder and co-director of the research experience for undergraduates at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Program Director at the National Science Foundation, father of three, professor, black belt in karate, 2005 Honors College Fellow of the Year, brown belt in judo, BA Magna Cum Laude with two majors and a minor, adviser for the Biology Colloquium. These are only some of the titles and distinctions that have been earned by Dr. Paul Malchow over the years, and yet he remains one of the most approachable and individually inspiring professors at UIC.

Dr. Malchow's ability to connect with students is evident from the words of his advisees. Sean Williams says that "Prof. Malchow was the first person I met when classes started in the Fall of 2008. I had missed orientation because I was still in the Army, so I was pretty un-oriented. He did a fantastic job as my HC fellow telling me about UIC and giving me advice to prepare for school." Grace Allawirdi, an undergraduate who works in Professor Malchow's lab describes him as "one of the rare professors left that genuinely invest in their students... He goes out of his way to make their learning experience just a little better, even downloading an application on his iPod to broadcast PPTs more smoothly for his students." Naz Rizvi, who has in addition to having Dr. Malchow as a professor worked with him on her capstone project states, "Prof. Malchow is most definitely one of the nicest professors at UIC, I've had him as my professor for 2 classes, he's an amazing teacher because he teaches in a way it's easiest for students to learn and is easily approachable outside of class... He is now my supervisor for my capstone project and has helped me so much—I don't know where I'd be without all his help!"



Dr. Malchow

Dr. Malchow's career in science has no clearly defined start. As a child, he says, "I liked to explore the world around me." He then had the good fortune of having in high school a science teacher with an "infectious enthusiasm for biology," who inspired him to pursue the subject in college, double majoring in biology and psychology, and then at graduate school in neurobiology.

As one thing led to another, Dr. Malchow became interested in the human retina partly because, as he says, "the retina is a model system for how the rest of the brain works". In other words, he explains, the retina, being no more than an more easily accessible outgrowth of neural tissue, provides a unique window into the workings of the rest of the immune system. His research focuses on the modulation of neurons by retinal neurotransmitters in order to better understand the mechanics behind how we process images.

When asked questions regarding his receipt of the Excellence in Teaching Award and his teaching philosophy, he said that the most important things are respect for students and to "believe that every one of them can learn." He says that it is important to keep the level of the students in mind when teaching classes, and that one "needs to adapt their teaching style to fit the needs of the students." Despite his success with students, Professor Malchow believes, "There is always room for improvement. One needs to continually assess themselves and their teaching style".

About UIC, Dr. Malchow exclaims, "I don't know of any other place with such a rich mix of students!" He thoroughly enjoys the interaction with the people here, and says that his experience with the Honors College has been "simply terrific." In his free time, Dr. Malchow enjoys martial arts, the great outdoors, and most of all, adventure, as captured in a poem by Walt Whitman: "Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road... The long brown path before me, leading wherever I choose..."

—Sasi Madugala

## Featured Honors Activity: Project Esteem

As Honors College students, we've all spent time choosing our Honors Activities each semester. The options are seemingly endless, each providing us with an opportunity to pursue personal interests or develop integral skill sets. Last semester, I chose to use my volunteer work with Project Esteem (PE) as my activity. PE consists of a group of students, usually about 6 or 7 volunteers, who visit a local children's shelter, Lydia House, on a biweekly basis. We introduce basic science concepts to an average of 20 children through simple, yet entertaining experiments. For example, during one session we taught them about the role of blood and oxygen in their bodies by running around with them and then teaching them to take their own pulse. As we progress in our educations, we tend to stray toward arrogance and the belief that the world must certainly revolve around our pleasures and triumphs. I've learned the best way to counter such tendencies is to spend your time with kids. The opportunity to interact with vibrant, vivacious children, who consistently display smiles on their faces despite less than joyful circumstances, not only proves that we've all got more than enough to learn about humility, but that sometimes kids half your age can effortlessly outsmart you. I frequently find myself in awe of just how little I know about anything after talking to any of the kids, whether the discussion was about the results of an experiment or an interaction they had with one of their friends. It's easy to get caught up in our own stressful worlds during the semester, and my best outlet has been having the opportunity to interact with the children at Lydia House. PE is always looking for more volunteers to lead experiments and activities with the children. If you're interested, contact Stephanie Getz ([sgetz2@uic.edu](mailto:sgetz2@uic.edu)).

—Vidya Govind

## Notes from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs hosts a range of scholarship information sessions to inform students about awards available to them. Check out the schedule and sign up for a session at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp/infosessionschedule.htm>

**Honors College students are strong candidates for nationally competitive and campus based awards. Consider some of the scholarships listed below and follow these steps in applying: 1) Read the website; 2) give yourself time to put together the application essays and materials; 3) contact letter writers; 4) contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs for assistance with the application.**

**Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship:** For outstanding seniors planning on graduate study, \$5000. Must be a member of PKP. UIC deadline: March 11. [http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Awards/Scholarships\\_Awards.html](http://www.phikappaphi.org/web/Awards/Scholarships_Awards.html)

**Udall:** For sophomores and juniors planning careers related to environmental issues, \$5000 toward the junior or senior year. UIC deadline: February 7, 2011. <http://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/MKUScholarship/MKUScholarship.aspx>

**Freeman Asia:** For undergraduates studying abroad in Asia, awards range up to \$3000 for a summer, \$5000 for a semester and \$7000 for a year. National deadlines: February 15, April 1, October 12.

<http://www.iie.org/programs/Freeman-ASIA/>

**SAUIC:** For freshmen, sophomores and juniors (a few for seniors) enrolled at UIC, scholarships ranging from \$500-\$5000. UIC deadline: February 18, 2011. <http://tiger.uic.edu/orgs/scholar/>

**Gilman:** For undergraduates who have Pell grants and are planning study abroad, up to \$5000 in support of study abroad. National deadline: March 1, 2011 for summer and fall travel, October for spring travel. [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)

**National Society of Accountants:** For sophomores, juniors or seniors majoring in accounting, \$500-\$2000 in support of continued study. National deadline: March 10, 2011. <http://www.nsacct.org/foundation.asp?id=578>

**S.E.E. Scholarships:** For UIC students with at least 40 hours (24 at UIC), \$5000 toward continued undergraduate study. UIC deadline: March 12, 2010 (likely to be similar in 2011.) [http://www.uic.edu/depts/cas/see\\_scholarship.shtml](http://www.uic.edu/depts/cas/see_scholarship.shtml)

**J.W. Saxe Prize:** For students seeking support for a no or low pay public service project or internship, \$1500 award. Record of public service is needed. National deadline: March 15, 2011. <http://www.jwsaxefund.org/>

**McKelvie:** For undergraduate and graduate students planning on careers in government, up to \$2000 awards. National deadline: April 1, 2011. [http://polisci.unl.edu/undergrad/undergrad\\_scholarships.aspx](http://polisci.unl.edu/undergrad/undergrad_scholarships.aspx)

British Scholarships, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell and Gates Cambridge have an April 15 deadline for students who want to do graduate study in the UK in fall of 2012. See the OSSP website for details: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp/all.htm>

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## Student Organization Spotlight: Red Shoes Review

The *Red Shoes Review* is a literary and arts magazine that publishes the work of undergraduate students and aims to foster the artistic community on UIC campus. We want to show that students from all different majors have the ability to create beautiful works of art and meaningful pieces of writing. This year's theme for our publication is "last impressions." We are glad that students were able to identify with this theme and channel that through their submissions. We look forward to putting together the final product and premiering it at the release event with other Honors College publications. We feel our board has made many positive changes this year and we are excited for the new direction we are headed. We look forward to seeing the response to our new look.

The fact that our organization has survived more than 20 years provides us with much pride. We are thrilled each year around the submission period to see the large amount of responses we receive. Our inbox is filled with new stories to read and artwork to admire. Our most recent success was a silent artwork auction that we hosted this past semester. With the help of Cabrini Connections, a local non-profit mentoring organization, we were able to raise over \$200.00 by selling artwork donated by local artists. The night included compelling poetry readings by two Cabrini Connection's students as well as musical performances by up-and-coming bands. - *Continued on next page*



**Get AMPED!**

The Ampersand is open and eager to accept submissions from all Honors College students. Interested? Please Contact smadug2@uic.edu

**Ampersand Board**

- Sasidhar Madugula, Editor
- Sasidhar Madugula, Layout
- Prof. Mark Chiang, Adviser
- Sarah Gardiner, HC Staff Liaison
- Contributors:
- Saif Ali
- Khyati Gajjar
- Vidya Govind
- Wenji Guo
- Krishna Patel
- Alex Kim
- Chaitra Kishore
- Swathi Madugula
- Namrata Shah

**Red Shoes Review, (cont)**

All proceeds were donated to Cabrini Connections, which shares a value for creative expression. Our ultimate goal for next year is to publish an issue each semester which will allow even more student work to be showcased. In the future we plan to be more active both on campus and the larger Chicago community. We are interested in hosting creative writing workshops and open mic nights on campus. Our work with Cabrini Connections has inspired us to become more involved with Chicago youth who often have limited outlets for their talents. In order for these visions to come a reality we plan to promote our organization much more widely on campus and the local community.

The Honors College and the UIC community as a whole have been very supportive of our publication. A common misconception about the university is that it is very science oriented and lacks culture. Our publication is just one of many examples on campus that the arts are valued by UIC students. Our yearly issue is just a sample of the many talents that walk amid our concrete campus everyday. We are very fortunate that we play a part in making their work known.

—Namrata Shah, Co-editor in chief, *Red Shoes Review*

**Photos from Red Shoes’ Silent Auction  
(Fall 2010)**



Opening remarks



Enjoying a lunch break



The official announcement



Up-and-coming UIC talent

**Upcoming stories:**

- Defining Service: At Home and Abroad
- Featured: Dr. Teri Long
- More “Adventures in India” by Saif Ali

