

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

November 1999

## *Important Upcoming Dates*

Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 25 & 26
Open Registration Period	Through Dec. 10
Finals Week	Dec. 6 - 10
Completion Forms Due	Dec. 10
Fall Grades Available Via UIC Express	Dec. 20
Open Registration Resumes	Dec. 20 - 27
Spring 2000 Semester Begins	Jan. 10

## *A Message from the Dean*

Dear Students,

As usual, the semester has come and gone at a fast pace. Everyone has been busy with assignments and other responsibilities that make academic life challenging. I hope that you are performing successfully in all the different tasks you are set to fulfill.

The College has had an exciting semester. Many students entered the very strenuous but invigorating competitions for major fellowships. They benefited from the skilled attention given by our visiting coordinator, Dr. Jane Curlin, and from the dedication of our own faculty and staff. We salute these students' efforts to apply and their spirit of excellence. They have set an example for others. Since October, Oveys Mansuri and Puneet Shroff have been enjoying their studies at Green College at the University of Oxford. Rajeev Garg, Peter Moschovis and Jennifer Solheim count among the finalists for either Marshall or Rhodes Scholarships. Their achievements testify to the quality of our undergraduate education and to their own seriousness. I invite every Honors College student to follow their example. We congratulate them.

Remember that the use of the Honors College facilities is reserved to members only. Please invite your friends who are not members and who satisfy the admission requirements to join. It is also appropriate that I remind everyone of the need to respect the silence of others and to keep our facilities – the lounge and pantry – in neat order and to pick up and dispose of garbage. Otherwise, our environment will not be conducive to work. It is equally important to avoid the use of cell phones in the computer lab and other areas. The College discourages the use of any instrument that disturbs work and silence.

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe return to meet the challenge of final examinations.

*Lansiné Kaba,*

Dean

## **Registration Reminders**

Just a reminder: all Honors College students must register for HON 222 (honors activity). The call numbers for spring semester are: 54390 (for students whose last name starts with A through L) and 54405 (for students whose last name starts with M through Z).

Additionally, to check on-line to see if a course is open or closed, visit the Timetable Course Section Information Server on the web: <http://www.uic.edu/class.html>

If, at any time when you are using UIC Express (312-413-8429) to register and have any difficulties, you may contact the Registration Help Line at (312) 996-8600 if you need assistance.

by Cherie Siu

Accepting Applications for Membership

by Boyan Petrovic

Are you a pre-med student and interested in meeting people that share a common interest in medicine? Maybe you're unsure about your career choice and would like to learn more about the field.

Join the Society of Future Physicians. Members enjoy ethics discussions and debates, guest speakers from the medical field, medical student panel discussions, book discussions, field trips, information on medical school admissions, and much more. Also, this year, members will benefit from our new Physician Shadowing Program. Members must attend at least three activities per semester to retain membership in the organization. For more information on our organization, visit our website at http://www2.uic.edu/stud\_orgs/prof/sfp or e-mail Nirali Shah at nshah8@uic.edu

To join, pick up an application from our mailbox in the Honors College Lounge. The applications (along with \$10 membership and application fees) will be due at the end of the semester. Members are only inducted twice a year, so be sure to get your application in before the end of finals week so you can join us for the Spring Semester!

Falling temperatures. Golden leaves. Ridiculously early spectacular sunsets. Yes, my friends, we are in the middle of autumn and gearing up for winter. To many of us, it is not a particular worry about which season it is. We are more concerned about our next physics exam, our fruit fly project, or our graduate thesis. When it gets cold, we just head to the hall closet to pull on that overcoat. It's not a big deal; after all, we'll just have to leave a little earlier for our commute to ensure that we get to class on time.

Yet to many others, it is definitely a big deal. Many of those who live in poverty scrimp and save all year round, yet still come up short to provide for their children or themselves. When winter comes around, worries of the added expense of winter gear fill their heads. To some, fulfilling the basic needs of food and clothing are an essential priority.

The Honors College will be holding our annual Canned Food and Clothing Drive to help the needy. This year however, the Honors College has teamed up with three other major organizations on campus to produce a true UIC effort to create the best results. The Honors College, New Life, Student Alumni League, and Asian American Students in Alliance, with the help from several other campus organizations, are sponsoring a three-week intensive collection drive to help out at least six shelters and organizations in the Chicagoland area, including Harper House and the Chicago Christian Industrial League. Our goal is to reach at least 10,000 canned goods and enough clothing to stuff 200 shopping bags.

This year's drive started on November 15th and will continue until December 3rd with drop-off points at several places on the UIC campus. These locations include the Honors College, the Epicenter Bookstore, Levine Hillel Center, Agape House, the Newman Center, the Admissions Office in SSB, University Hall, the Alumni Association, and in front of the UIC Bookstore.

You can help out by dropping off canned food and new or slightly used clothing at these sites. Our volunteers will be picking them up and delivering them in person to Chicagoland shelters. For more information, call (312) 413-0419 or email me at csu1@uic.edu or any of the other coordinators, Tara (trahal@uic.edu), Vijay (vkhan1@uic.edu), or Catherine (cho3@uic.edu).



What is the Honors College Advisory Board?

An inside perspective...

by Cherie Ryoo

One of the questions that we receive is "What exactly do you guys do?" Few people know what the Honors College Advisory Board is, and some don't even know it exists. More commonly referred to as "HCAB," we are made up of seventeen members. We are the link between the faculty and students of the Honors College. We organize many events that are designed to bring the faculty and students closer together, and give students the chance to interact with the Honors College. Socials, which all Honors College students are invited to, are held quite frequently. The Honors College Ball is also a popular event, held a few weeks before spring break. We encourage volunteers, as many of the events we sponsor or help out with require a lot of planning and work. If you're in the Honors College a lot, you've probably seen us running around madly finishing up last minute details on our latest project.

So what's the inside perspective? Most of the Honors College only sees the finished product of our countless meetings and preparations. They usually don't see what it takes to put on these finished products. For example, it took many hours of work to put together New Student Day at the beginning of the year. HCAB met several times over the summer to make the day a success. Several people worked in each of several sub-committees that were in charge of activities, games, food, decorations, and organization of the day, which itself only took five hours, compared to the many, many hours put into it.

And that's only one activity that HCAB is in charge of. So what else? If you talk to any one of the seventeen of us, you'll hear about the committee meetings that take place once a week. One popular one is the ball committee. This committee is in charge of organizing the Honors College Ball. Within this committee, there are even MORE committees... each with its own special thing to do. As one can tell, committees are a huge part of the organization of HCAB. We all sit through committee and general meetings, which may seem quite boring to the outsider, but to a group of individuals such as us, are extremely important and intriguing. We organize events that a wide range of people attend, which include everyone from the chancellor up in University Hall to the lowliest incoming freshman.

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Exciting Spring Course Offering: HIST 116

We would like to draw your attention to an interesting course being offered in the spring: History 116, taught by Professor Nicole Jordan. It is listed in the timetable as "Freshman seminar: special topics," but it is open to students other than freshmen. The timetable description is "nationalism and individualism in modern European history." Expanding on that, Professor Jordan says that students will study the political philosophies of Locke, Mill and Marx, and will read Voltaire, Zola and Havel. The course meets on Thursdays from 1:00- 3:30 (although the timetable says 4:00). The call number is 04759, and it meets in 1050 UH. HIST 116 also fulfills an LAS humanities requirement. The course is designed to help students with speaking and writing about important texts. Prof. Jordan would be delighted to have Honors College students in this class.

## Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Rhonna Cohen

by Mona Oberoi



In her 30+ year career at UIC, Dr. Rhonna Cohen, Associate Professor of Oral Medicine and Clinical Dermatology, has formally and informally advised over twenty students in the past 4 years through the fellow mentorship program in the Honors College. This program gives every student in the Honors College an opportunity to meet with a professor in their specific field of interest.

While fellows often learn a great deal about their students, it is rare that the students gain insight into the backgrounds of their fellows. For this reason, the *Ampersand* would like to share the interesting and unique qualities that have allowed Dr. Cohen to be such a helpful fellow to so many students.

Dr. Cohen is a native Chicagoan. She attended Chicago public Schools and earned her B.S. at Roosevelt University. As she worked toward her DDS, she was the only female in her entire class of 100 dental students! She later earned her PhD in Pathology here at UIC.

Currently, Dr. Cohen teaches critical thinking and cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on oral diseases to third year dental students as well as masters level students, respectively. She is also the advisor of the recently established Pre-dental Club at UIC. Additionally, her involvement with the Honors College fellow program provides her with the enjoyment of interacting with undergraduate students. According to Dr. Cohen, "There is a great satisfaction in being able to utilize my own years of experience to help Honors College students make decisions." In this role, she feels the experience of sharing her knowledge with students is very rewarding for both the student as well as for herself. "It gives me a different sense of accomplishment by seeing my own students' accomplishments," she added.

As of member of the Center for Molecular Biology of Oral Diseases in the College of Dentistry, Dr. Cohen is involved in laboratory research on wound healing and how the nervous system regulates some types of immune responses. She plans to continue developing the Pre-dental Club and also hopes to also become involved with programs for literacy and early childhood education.

When asked about important pieces of advice she could give to any Honors College student, Dr. Cohen replied: "Take advantage of the variety of available opportunities. Don't limit yourself to a major area of focus. Explore and expand what you know about the world and yourself. Don't be set on one course of planning for the future; don't be afraid to change your original plans. The most important thing is to find out what the world is about, and what you're happy doing."

It is these beliefs that allowed Dr. Cohen to achieve all that she has. Unlike many jobs, Dr. Cohen's workday is not 9-5. "The day does not stop at 5 p.m. and it surely does not stop on Fridays. An academic life involves doing what you love to do. You must have a passion for it," she added.

## HCAB

(cont'd. from page 2)

Look around for the next HCAB event, and once you get there, introduce yourselves to us! Or, if you'd like to help us out, show up to one of our general meetings (every other Friday). We'll be happy to meet you, and introduce you to a few people, as we are the links between you and the rest of the Honors College population.

## Need Help?

## Honors College Tutoring May be the Answer!

by Vijay Khiani

Guess what time of the year it is? Yes, it is the winter. However, that's not the answer I was looking for. What you should have said is that it's that time of the year when everybody is getting prepared for his or her final exams. It's CRUNCH time. This is when people either make or break themselves in their classes.

So how are you going to make sure that you MAKE your grades excellent? Obviously, you need to study hard. But sometimes, that's not enough. Sometimes, you need somebody to help you confirm your knowledge in certain areas you don't feel so confident about.

I suggest that you come by the Honors College for some tutoring. After all, that's why the program exists. When people want some help or even want to make sure they are headed on the right track, they stop by to get some help. Tutoring is available from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Monday through Friday in Room 114. And let me tell you, every subject is accounted for. To see which subjects are offered and to check out the tutoring schedule, go to the Honors College web page (<http://www.hc.uic.edu>) and visit the tutoring schedule link. If you need any assistance at all, just stop by and somebody will be more than happy to give you a helping hand towards receiving that magnificent grade!

Other than that, a couple of tips I would offer you are to sleep and eat well the week before your exams. It's not smart to wait until the night before to get prepared. Go start right now! You'll be grateful later. Best of luck to you! Make me proud.



## UIC & John Marshall Law School Team Up

UIC and the John Marshall Law School are developing a clinic that will work on behalf of incarcerated individuals serving lengthy prison terms who still maintain that they are innocent of the crime for which they have been convicted. The clinic will not take death penalty cases; those who receive lengthy terms generally do not receive time and attention, and no money is available to represent them. These individuals will be selected through the assistance of the State Public Defender. Marshall law faculty and partners in prominent law firms will represent these individuals. UIC students will work with the lawyers and with Marshall law students.

What will students do? Sit in on interviews, track down documents, help with legal research, get involved with forensic tests of evidence, locate witnesses, go to court and help to develop a grant proposal.

Students may also attend a two-hour session each week in which people involved in the clinic meet with the Marshall professor who is running the clinic. They may also sit in on the CRJ criminal investigations course that will be taught by the lead investigator of the Capital Litigation Division of the Public Defender Office.

Professor Matthew Lippman of the Department of Criminal Justice will be available to offer independent study, honors activity credit, etc., or to answer questions and provide more information. He can be reached at 413-2476 or 996-5296, or by email at [mlippman@uic.edu](mailto:mlippman@uic.edu)

## Glamour Magazine's Top Ten College Women Competition

Glamour magazine is pleased to invite students to apply to its 2000 Top Ten College Women Competition. This competition recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. It's an ideal opportunity for talented students to be rewarded for their leadership roles on campus and in the greater community.

What it takes: leadership experience, involvement on campus and in your community, excellence in your field of study, and unique, inspiring goals. Winners receive a \$1,000 cash prize, national recognition in Glamour's October issue, and the opportunity to meet with top professionals in their field, usually during a few-day stay in New York City, where all the winners have a chance to meet one another.

## MCA Film: Interesting, But Not for Everyone

by Vidhya Viswanathan

Since the beginning of man's use of intelligence and creativity, there have been tremendous clashes between what artists perceive as art and what the general audience perceives as art. The clashes have encompassed the era of Impressionism to Andy Warhol to Salvador Dali. Today, many people speak of "contemporary art" with the same suspicion as others did about Impressionism. In an effort to expand the cultural horizons of its students, the Honors College recently sponsored an excursion to the Museum of Contemporary Art in conjunction with its "Stir It Up" program. The relatively small group of students from all majors (from art & design to occupational therapy) found the evening to be interesting, despite the confusion caused by the film shown, *Cremaster 2*, by Matthew Barney.

*Cremaster 2* documented the life of Gary Gilmore, an alleged descendant of Harry Houdini. Infamous because he fought to be executed by firing squad after his double murder conviction, Gilmore caused quite a furor in 1976, America's bicentennial year. Barney presented Gilmore's life through the use of very few words and numerous images. Perhaps it was my lack of knowledge of the artist, or perhaps it was the intimidation factor involved at being at the Museum of Contemporary Art, but the film left me feeling confused, frustrated, and overall unhappy.

Rashmi Mariyappa, who is the student liaison between UIC and the MCA, mentioned that filmmaker Matthew Barney has been hailed as an important up and coming filmmaker by several critics. Although I could see why Barney was revered as filmmaker, there were quite a few thought-provoking moments in the film, several of which I could not completely understand. This was the consensus that I received from the group as well. What the film did accomplish was to create an arena for discussion; perhaps this was the goal. With all art, there is a general discussion that must follow to attempt to understand what the artist was trying to accomplish.

Despite the graphic and sometimes lewd nature of the film, we all realized that Barney was telling a story. The extent to which we understood how he was telling it, however, was minimal. This particular exhibition at the MCA was not to my liking, but what I did discover was that by expanding my cultural horizons, I was able to discover what I did or did not like in an art form. This is not written to discourage anyone from exploring new cultural avenues. On the contrary, I am glad that I was able to take part in the trip. I met people that I normally would not have and learned how a movie could become more than pure entertainment. It is a different feeling to emerge from the protective covering in which we sometimes immerse ourselves. Discovering more about the world around us should be a part of the college experience and I encourage everyone to try new and different things.

For more information on the MCA's "Stir It Up" and other programs, visit their web site: <http://www.mcachicago.org/>



## For the Children:

### *The Reality Behind the Cliché*

by Jessica Wilson

If there's one thing we're all good for, it's talk. But when it comes down to getting the job done, *everybody* is looking for *somebody* to do what *anybody* could have done, but that *nobody* ends up doing.

The time in which we now live is critical. It is a time when children can't even watch Saturday morning cartoons without being filled with the poison of crime, sex, drugs and the cruel realities of American society.

In an attempt to secure a promising future for our youth, the Black Student Union called out to faculty, staff, and students, asking that each individual donate school supplies or money toward the purchase of school supplies. The supplies that have been and continue to be collected are going toward the children of Nash Elementary School, whose low-income children need some sort of inspiration. What better inspiration than a spiral, a pen, or even a box of crayons from a college student or teacher who believed in this child enough to invest humbly into his/her future?

As an added incentive, a pizza party was offered to the Residence Hall floor that collected the most school supplies. The school supplies have proven to be a great success, with people generously donating crayons, calculators, spirals, and more, in addition to money.

Black Student Union extends a special thanks to all School Supply Drive supporters, who know that the tools for the future aren't necessarily hammers and cement as much as pencils and paper.



# Role Reversal

by Nirali Shah

Ahh... remember the days of high school? The days of writing notes in class, of getting signed out of school and of having a full class schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.? The days of dances, Prom, and football games? The days of really getting to know your teachers, going on field trips, and just having a great time? Yes, high school was definitely a fun time and a fun place to be. This is the life of a high school student, but has anyone stopped to think about the lives of his/her teachers?

For the past five weeks, I have had the opportunity to study what the life of a high school teacher is like, as well as fill in for the position and get a taste of role myself. As a secondary education major in Chemistry, part of the requirement for my Education 330 class this semester was to participate in sixty observation hours. I also had to complete a total of twenty lessons in high school chemistry that I would teach (in preparation for student teaching next semester). And let me tell you, what an experience this has been!

I have been observing teachers in the science department at a Chicago public high school and now fully realize that it is no easy job. Teachers have a full schedule each day: dealing with all types of students and learning styles, being able to teach to each student, lesson planning, grading, making up seating charts, tutoring, and sponsoring school activities. The teachers I observed were dedicated and did much more than just teach. Teachers who really care truly make a difference in the lives of their students, as was evident in my observation periods.

Once the role reversal took place, I soon found myself at the front of the classroom, trying to account for 30-some students and hoping that I would be able to teach them. My responsibilities, however, involved much more than just teaching. One of the first things that I learned was that no matter what I had planned to cover, I could not go on if my students were confused. This was by far one of the most frustrating things for me to realize. No matter which material I thought was easy and which material was difficult, I could not make any assumptions about what my students did and did not know. The actual *teaching* aspect of being a teacher involves learning about your students and having the patience and taking the time to really review.



## **Glamour** (cont'd. from page 4)

Students may obtain an application form by contacting Glamour directly, either by e-mail: [ttcw@glamour.com](mailto:ttcw@glamour.com), phone: 800 244-GLAM, or fax: 212 286-6922. All materials must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2000. For questions regarding the competition, contact the Competition Director, Karen Lubeck, at 212 286-6701.

Another very important thing I learned was that I need to learn how to listen. Whether my students say it or not, I need to respond to their needs and abilities. I need to understand the frustrations that they are going through and be able to show them that they are capable of personal successes.

In terms of doing more than teaching, I was also fully responsible for attendance and discipline in the classroom. As a high school student, it was beyond me that teachers would get so upset when we talked. I mean, after all, we were students. We were supposed to talk, right? Well, from the perspective of a teacher, I really learned how frustrating it was to see the students write and pass notes, instead of taking notes and paying attention to me while I was lecturing. It was also confusing and bothersome that students who would yell and scream in the hallways refused to raise their hands in the classroom. Yes, teaching involves much more than just teaching the subject matter.

I was also involved with tutoring the students, and I also observed some of the other events that take place at the school. Believe me, the teachers are the ones who make possible all the wonderful events and activities that students take part in in high school. On a personal note, I learned firsthand that teachers cannot just oversleep...as I accidentally did on one of the days that I was supposed to be teaching and ended up missing my class!

I could honestly go on and on about my observations and teaching experiences. Proof of this is a total of thirty pages of various essays on just my observations. However, I will stop here, with just a final thought as to what I feel that students can do to help their teachers, and so this is a call out to us all. As students, we hold the expectation that our teachers or professors may know everything that there is to know. The truth is that they don't. Understand that, and realize that they will do their very best to find out. They also often don't know when they are teaching well or they are confusing you. So, provide them with help. Let teachers know how they can help you learn, ask questions, and don't worry about being wrong. As a baby falls many times before he/she can walk, we, too, need to make mistakes before we learn anything. What I personally would have wished for more of in my classroom experience would have been more questions from students. ASK QUESTIONS! Let your teachers know what you have learned, and only then will they be able to teach to the way you need to be taught.



## A Glimpse of an Honors Student/ Athlete: Boyan Petrovic

by David Limsui & Cherie Siu

Here is a quick peek into the life of a student-athlete as seen through the eyes of two of his peers.

### Best Friend and Chief Backer (David):

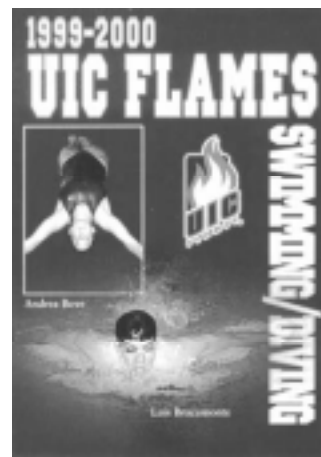
I've finally trained myself to ignore my roommate Boyan's daily 6:00 a.m. alarm that signals the start of his day with a fitness training class. Still bewildered by his amazing ability to fit swim team into his jam-packed schedule, I've stood witness many times to the many sacrifices he's made for being an athlete. What I've learned is that these sacrifices can never withstand the strength of his dedication and love of swimming. I'm proud of Boyan and his unfaltering character, not only as a top-notch student athlete, but also as an individual whom I'm honored to be friends with. You can see him slowly walking back from practice in those bright red UIC sweats. You can even see him during winter break bundled-up tightly in his hooded parka. But you definitely have to see him in the clear waters of the UIC pool, his second home. So go to a UIC swim meet and enjoy watching a man taking his talent and love to the highest level.

### #1 Fan and Ardent Supporter (Cherie):

I've always loved the smell of chlorine. To me, it represents weeks of hard work, dedication, and performances in water that I could only dream of accomplishing. Recently, I was convinced to attend the first home swim meet against Butler with the guarantee that I was going to enjoy it and the free pizza afterwards. I was not disappointed. I walked in, assaulted by the aroma of chlorine and the cheers from the stands. The atmosphere was electrifying. We found seats in the crowded stands, waiting for Boyan's races. However while doing so, the races that were going on captured my attention. I found myself leaning over the railing, pumping my fist, and shouting for UIC to pull ahead in every race. I found myself shouting myself hoarse and whistling the UIC team to triumph, definitely enjoying every moment.

The meet had started at one in the afternoon. By the time the meet was almost over, the late afternoon sunshine had filtered in through the windows above and played shadows and beams on the pool. Through the middle of the brightest natural spotlight, the diving team was doing their spectacular turns and twists through the air, plunging cleanly into the water. It wasn't the only breathtaking moment of the meet. Time after time during the relays and races, seven guys or girls would take their places in a fast and furious race to the finish. My heart was in my throat as I, in only my third visit to PEB in three years, grasped the railing with white knuckles as if that would have helped a UIC team member move up in the standings. I in awe of the speed of many of the swimmers and the many events each one swam. Records were broken, and new goals were set, pushing the UIC swim team to a new momentum. Truly, Boyan and the rest of this year's UIC swim team is on the way to a top-notch record.

You can see the Men's and Women's Swim Teams at PEB during the Alumni Meet as they go up against the University of Wisconsin Green Bay on January 15, 2000. The meet starts at 1 p.m. and admission is free for UIC students. Help pump up the teams as they prepare to make a big impact at the MCC Championships.



To find out more about UIC's swim team and see their upcoming schedule, visit their web site at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/sports/>

## Get Your Head Out of the Sand!

by Tara Mythri Raghavan

After spending over three years at this campus, I can safely say that many students here are nearly clueless about the world around them. Like one of those Jay Leno classic excerpts, if people here were asked about current events in general, they are not likely to know about them. This is not suggesting that people here are unintelligent, but rather that they are oblivious to outside concerns. A student may know how to synthesize a complex molecule and yet not know that Janet Reno is the Attorney General of the United States. Although they may feel that the outside world does not matter to them right now, students will soon find as they enter the workforce or go on to higher studies that this knowledge is perhaps even more essential to their well being than their ability to dissect Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven*. After all, you cannot "quote the raven" when you have to work on your taxes, but you may need to see what the Senate majority leader said about the tax credits proposed for a specific fiscal year.

(cont'd. on next page)

## Your Head

(cont'd. from page 6)

It is also essential that as citizens of a global society, we take the time to learn about the larger world around us. This will help us to realize that what happens in China can affect us, since much of the imports we take in are from our eastern counterparts. As the new millennium approaches, it is essential that we make the effort to listen to Peter Jennings and Barbara Walters, for what they say now can give us a clue about what the future holds in store.

The lack of knowledge that plagues college students in general stems from both a shortage of interest in things happening outside of our major area of interest as well as a lack of interest in community activism in general. By getting involved in different campus organizations and groups, students have the opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds who have different views about religion and culture. This can help students broaden their horizons and give them the chance to look at problems from different perspectives. This kind of activity is essential to a person's education.

After serving as Treasurer of the UIC Ambassadors for the past two years and being the Secretary of the Honors College Advisory Board last year and Activities Chair this year, I can say without a shadow of a doubt that I have met many people who have helped me become a well-rounded person. Along with my academic achievements, participating in these organizations has given me the opportunity to view the world from many different angles. Activity on campus, on whatever level, is the only way for people to become informed about the school and consequently the larger world around them.

As we enter the last few weeks of this semester, we must ask ourselves if we have realized our personal goals for the semester. What was your level of campus participation? If this is not satisfactory, join an organization next semester, whether it is a church organization, a sports club, or a governmental body. In addition, make an effort to learn about the world around us. Pick up a *New York Times* (available in the Honors College Lounge), participate in Honors College Activities, and be a true citizen of the world. Believe me: the benefits will outweigh any costs!!!

## Topless Carwashes and Extinct Fish - *The National Collegiate Honors Council*

by Rajeev Garg & Vandana Khungar



At the end of October, we had the opportunity to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Orlando, Florida. This conference is held every year and draws participants from over 150 Honors College and Programs from schools across the United States. At the conference, we all meet and share ideas about how to improve the social and academic life of Honors students. In addition, Honors students are given the opportunity to present their individual research projects, which range from the natural sciences to the humanities. The conference also sponsored some distinguished speakers who addressed topics and issues ranging from the world's marine life to flying in space.

The first day at the conference, we attended a seminar that involved relatively small group discussions dealing with topics such as fundraising, activities, recruitment, etc. Each group was composed of students from different schools and we shared our ideas about how to improve a particular aspect of the Honors experience. One student from another university expressed her concern over how hard it is to fundraise. She mentioned that her school has tried everything from bake sales to car washes and they have only come up with \$250 per year. It was encouraging to see that we can make that amount in three bake sales. Another student mentioned the idea of a topless car wash (a car wash in which you wash everything but the tops of cars). Yet another student mentioned that she was able to book R.E.M. to perform at one of her events because all of the proceeds went to charity. We began to get pretty excited about the prospects for this year's charity ball.

The next day we had the privilege of seeing Dean Madia and Dean Zillmer present their ideas about architecture and the design of the Honors College. At this same session, we worked with members of an architecture firm to try to conceptualize ideal spaces for Honors students. As we worked in small groups, we met many interesting people and we were able to get ideas for our own college. It was also interesting to note the different ways people think; some ideas were very abstract and others more concrete.

On the final day of the conference, Dr. Carl Safina, Director of the Audubon Living Oceans Program, gave the keynote address. Dr. Safina flew in from his current field-work in Peru to address the NCHC members. As he spoke about the world's marine life, he prompted the audience to question whether or not they should eat seafood. He brought it to our attention that 40% of the planet's marine life will soon be extinct. We also learned that even though environmental and wildlife preservation laws have been passed in many countries, including the United States, none of these laws apply to marine life.

Aside from the structured sessions, it was interesting to meet students from across the country and discuss not only their Honors programs, but also their universities in general. Of course, we also did have time to have some fun in Orlando and to see Disney, Sea World, and go clubbing. It was during this time, that we could really get to know one another and talk to members of Honors programs across the country. Going to the conference made us realize how much we truly do have in common with students from other universities and the fact that we can learn from them tremendously.

What we found most intriguing at the conference was how strong the Honors College is at UIC and how we are setting the standard for Honors programs and colleges across the country. Throughout the sessions, students and advisors alike were impressed with the programs at UIC. We were very proud to be representing UIC's Honors College.