

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

January 1999

## ***Important Upcoming Dates***

*Agreement Forms Due* Jan. 29

*Tuition Waiver Applications Due* Feb. 5

*Red Shoes Revived Submission Deadline* Feb. 12

*Illinois Medical Schools Admissions Seminar* Feb. 20

*Annual Ball* March 6

## ***A Message from Dean Kaba***

Happy New Year and welcome back to UIC. I hope that you enjoyed your holiday...everyone needs a little vacation to recover from a busy and exacting fall semester. It is well known that a rest provides more energy to tackle new responsibilities. Weather and other physical conditions can make winter difficult and challenging. Yet, it is the beginning of the second semester of the academic year, and hence, a most important term!

We at the Honors College encourage you to pursue your studies with the same seriousness that earned your membership in it. You are known for striving for excellence. Good luck. Feel free to talk to us about your studies and other concerns. We will do what we can to help.

In the meantime, remember that the office regularly sends pertinent information about various issues, including fellowships. Please read your messages.

Have a good semester.

*Lansiné Kaba*  
Dean

## **A Friendly Reminder!**

Don't forget to turn in your signed Agreement Forms to the Honors College office in Burnham Hall by the end of the day on Friday, January 29th!

## **Once Upon a Time...**

*While this is a phrase commonly used to introduce an imaginary fairy tale, let this saying become your reality...*

*Once Upon a Time...*

*6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball*

*Presidential Ballroom of the Midland Hotel*

*Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999 - 6 p.m.-midnight*

*Sponsored by the Honors College*

*Only \$30 per person!*

## Spring 1999 Honors College Tuition Waivers

Are you in need of financial assistance to pay your tuition this semester? The Honors College has available a limited number of fall semester tuition waivers for continuing UIC honors students. The waivers will be awarded based on a combination of academic merit and financial need. A committee comprised of Honors College faculty and staff will make its selection of recipients later in February.

To be considered for a waiver, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at UIC during spring semester 1999;
- Have a minimum cumulative UIC grade point average of 4.5;
- Have earned at least 12 semester credit hours at UIC;
- Have demonstrated financial need.

Please note that “demonstrated need” does not necessarily imply eligibility for federal grants or loans; in fact, our experience indicates that many students’ need is the direct result of their ineligibility for such financial aid. The waivers are available to Illinois residents and students who do not qualify for in-state tuition; however, the latter should keep in mind that the waiver amount awarded will be equal only to in-state undergraduate tuition (currently \$1,523 for all undergraduates except those in engineering, for whom tuition is \$1,723).

To apply for a waiver, pick up an application and submit it with a typed, double-spaced essay of no more than 500 words in which you relate the financing of your college education thus far and your financial need. **The application deadline is Friday, February 5, 1999.**

## Express Yourself!

by Suja Isaac

OK, I know what you’re probably thinking. “Oh no, another article on that topic we all love to hate: Madonna songs.” But you’re in for a surprise. Instead, I have something even better in store for you, and it’s called: RED SHOES REVIVED. “Red Shoes Revived?” you ask.

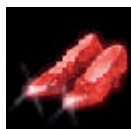
“Doesn’t that have to do with those shiny magical slippers that Dorothy wore in the Wizard of Oz?” Well, yes and no. Didn’t I tell you you’d be in for a surprise?

You see, Red Shoes Revived is the new and improved literary magazine (sponsored by the Honors College), made by the students, for the students at UIC. After a brief hiatus under another name, it’s back and better than ever - with a spin off of the name of the original Honors College literary magazine started many years ago, Red Shoes Review.

Like Dorothy’s magical slippers, these Red Shoes aren’t as “innocent” as they look. If you let them, they have the power to take you on adventures you never dreamed possible. You can visit exotic lands, or peer into the mind of your best friend, or do things you never would do in real life (like dancing naked in the rain, for example) - all just by picking up a magazine. Now how’s that for a real deal?

If you’ve ever wanted to be published, or just have some neat stuff lying around - this might be the perfect thing for you. Currently, the magazine is accepting submissions from all UIC undergraduates for such works as: poems, short stories, artwork, black and white photographs, and any other “artsy” thing you might have.

The deadline to submit for this semester’s issue is February 12th. To enter your piece, just drop it off at the Honors College office, 103 Burnham Hall. Or, for more information, contact editors Chris Turek (either at [cturek1@uic.edu](mailto:cturek1@uic.edu) or at the HC Computer Lab in 103 BH, Amy Hoak ([ahoak1@uic.edu](mailto:ahoak1@uic.edu)), or Suja Isaac ([sisaac2@uic.edu](mailto:sisaac2@uic.edu)).



## National Institutes of Health Offers Scholarship Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation’s premier biomedical research and research training and funding entity, offers



an innovative service-connected scholarship program, the Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individu-

als from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (UGSP), to students who are pursuing a career in health research.

The UGSP can offer up to \$20,000 per year in financial aid to support educational expenses, and its service requirement is an attractive 10-week paid laboratory-based internship at NIH. After graduation, recipients also pay back a year of service for each year of scholarship support, with paid research training at NIH. Information can be found at their web site at <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov>

Fifteen UGSP scholarships will be offered for next year; therefore this will be a highly competitive program. A frequently asked Q and A sheet (including a definition of what is considered “disadvantaged”), and an application request form for the 1999-2000 year are available at the Honors College reception area in Burnham Hall. Applications can also be downloaded from their web site listed at the end of the first paragraph. The deadline for completed applications is March 31, 1999.

## Flaherty Scholarship Award Winners

The following Honors College students were recently awarded Flaherty Scholarships for Study Abroad:



**Peter Moschovis**, who is studying in Athens, Greece; **Yasar Sharif**, attending school in Australia, and **Jennifer**



**Solheim**, who is studying in Paris.

Congratulations to all of you - and keep in touch!



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## CBA Salutes Kevin Desouza

The spirit of helping others is part of the definition of an honors student. Honors College junior and IDS major **Kevin Desouza** exemplifies this spirit, as the following excerpt from the January issue of *On-Line*, the College of Business Administration's newsletter demonstrates:

"The College of Business, Student Affairs staff congratulates Kevin DeSouza as the employee of the month. As many of you know, Kevin is a tutor for the CBA in Math and Statistics. He has performed an outstanding service to the students in the CBA by helping them through all Math and IDS stats courses."

Here is an excerpt from a letter signed by twenty students who nominated Kevin for this award: "I think he provides an excellent service to the students. I am not alone when I say he puts in a lot of extra work the betterment of students. There have been many instances when he stayed overtime to help us. Every student who Kevin has helped in stats or math has increased their averages by at least one grade. We celebrate your generous spirit and superb service to the students of the CBA."

Congratulations, Kevin. We're proud of you!

## Honors Regional Conferences

The Honors Council of the Illinois Region will hold its annual spring conference on Saturday, February 27, at Joliet Junior College. The primary purpose of the conference is to provide honors students with an opportunity to share their work with their peers. Presentations may be oral reports on completed or on-going research, panel discussions on a project or issue, poster or other display presentations, or performances. Proposal forms are available at the Honors College and are due back to Dean Madia by Friday, February 12.

The Upper Midwest Honors Council Conference will take place Thursday, April 8 through Saturday, April 10 at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The format for presentations can be oral, poster, or a creative activity. Again, proposals are available at the Honors College. They are due back to Dean Madia by Friday, February 19.

Most people in almost every career will need to make a professional presentation at some point, so both of these conferences are fine opportunities to get some experience in a relatively non-threatening atmosphere. Registration and travel expenses for students whose proposals are accepted for presentation at either conference will be paid for by the Honors College. Contact Dean Madia if you have questions or would like additional information.

## Illinois Medical Schools Admissions Seminar

All Honors College students are invited to attend the Illinois Medical Schools Admission Seminar on Saturday, February 20, 1999, at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook. The seminar will provide information about what it is like to be a medical student, educational opportunities at each of the Illinois medical schools, and practical aspects of the admissions process.

You will be able to visit with medical students and admissions officers from each of the Illinois medical schools. There is no charge for the seminar. The program begins at 9:30 and lasts until about 3:30. Copies of the preliminary program schedule are available at the Honors College reception area.

The Honors College will provide transportation from campus to the Holiday Inn (located near the intersection of Route 83 and Interstate 55) and back for students who need help getting there. Please email Dean Zillmer at [randiz@uic.edu](mailto:randiz@uic.edu) if you need a ride.

## The Ball Committee Needs Your Help!

Preparations are well under way for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ball, which will once be held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Midland Hotel's Presidential Ballroom. HCAB's Ball committee still needs help with fundraising, ticket selling, decorations, working booths, advertising, publicity, handing out fliers, etc. If you would like to help, come to the ball meetings held every Thursday at 6:15 p.m. in the Honors College.

If you're unable to make the meetings, but are still interested in helping out, please contact Ball chairperson **Vandana Khungar** at [vkhung1@uic.edu](mailto:vkhung1@uic.edu) or **Puneet Shroff** at [pshrofl@uic.edu](mailto:pshrofl@uic.edu)

This is a great opportunity for those of you who would like to be on HCAB next year or if you just want to have some fun and be in on the Ball preparations.

# A Look at Ramadan

by Harris Jatoi

Islam is the second most followed religion in the world and is currently the fastest growing. However, many people know little about the religion itself and its customs. Basically, Islam has "five pillars" including faith in Allah (God), giving zakat (donation), a pilgrimage to Mecca, prayer, and participation in Ramadan.

The latter is perhaps the most intriguing and yet the most confusing concept for non-Muslims. To put it simply, Ramadan is a holy month during which all Muslims around the world are required to fast. However, female Muslims who are pregnant/nursing, young children, and those who are sick/underweight are not required to fast. The primary purpose of this holy month is to be aware of those who are less fortunate and have little or nothing to eat, and being thankful for what one has. By fasting, Muslims temporarily acknowledge the suffering of the poor and are often compelled to aid them. In addition, Ramadan represents unity among all Muslims who are fasting during this month.

Since the Islamic calendar year is different from the traditional one, Ramadan doesn't fall at the same time each year. This year, Ramadan began in the middle of December and continued through mid-January.

A fast, (*Roza* in Arabic), lasts from sunrise to sunset. Therefore, fasting is easier during the winter as opposed to the summer because the days are shorter. Before sunrise, Muslims can eat a breakfast/snack, which is called *sehri*. From that point on to sunset, Muslims cannot consume anything. At sunset, the fast can be broken with a drink and a light snack, called *aftari*. Following *aftari*, Muslims offer prayers and start having their dinners.

This routine is followed by all practicing Muslims around the world for an entire month. The end of Ramadan is marked by a religious holiday called *Eid*. All in all, Ramadan brings Muslim families and friends closer together, even if it is just for a month.

# Serving Up Some Chicago-Style Hospitality

by Nirali Shah

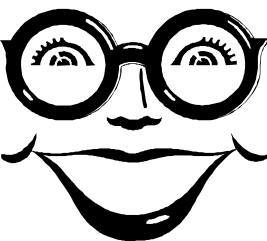
Happy New Year! Welcome to 1999! A New Year always comes with much to look forward to, and the hope of having a wonderful year. In order to improve our lives, many of us make New Year's resolutions. Mine were pretty typical: eat healthy, work out more, and so on. I'm sure that many of us also made the resolution to study more.

How many of you made the resolution to be happy? How many of you think that we need to laugh and smile more? Or what about taking the time out to do something nice for someone else? Perhaps with this New Year, we should all add a resolution to just smile more. A recent incident convinced me of this.

I recently attended the SASA (South Asian Students Alliance) conference. Students from all over the country traveled to Chicago to participate. A comment by a girl from Georgia made me contemplate the way I live my life and the resolutions I'd made. Her opinion of Chicagoans was that they never smiled or said hello, and were extremely rude! I suppose she was used to southern hospitality, but it bothered me that she thought that Chicago attitudes were as cold as the temperature outside.

There is a lot we can do to change this. We can brighten so many people's lives by just smiling more. As children we are taught to not look at strangers, but is it wrong to smile and greet someone with the wish that they have a good day? Why not try to be friendlier? Why should we discourage those who visit Chicago from wanting to come back?

When people travel to Chicago, they often come to see the Sears Tower, go shopping on Michigan Avenue, and eat Chicago style pizza. I'd like to suggest an addition to this list: if we all try to bring in this New Year with a smile, the Windy City will soon be famous for serving up its "Chicago-style hospitality" to both visitors and residents alike.



# New on Campus: The International Club

by Danielle Brandstetter

I'd like to introduce you to a new club on campus called the International Club. We just started this club at UIC in the fall, but it already exists at universities across the country. Here is some basic information about the International Club.

## Goals:

- \* To promote diversity
- \* To enrich the teaching/learning experience amongst students of different cultures
- \* To prepare American students to have a better understanding of global economics and its impact on their lives as well as the international students
- \* To provide a means of support and encouragement for international students
- \* To share different cultural politics, and social points of view in order to get a broader view of the world.

## Membership requirements:

- \* Must be a registered student or faculty member of UIC

## Officers:

President: Mishawn Davis,  
[mondavis@hotmail.com](mailto:mondavis@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Danielle Brandstetter,  
[dbrand2@uic.edu](mailto:dbrand2@uic.edu)

Secretary: Osei Omoike,  
[oomoike3@uic.edu](mailto:oomoike3@uic.edu)

Treasurer: Laura Lee, [jlee60@uic.edu](mailto:jlee60@uic.edu)

Public Relations Chair: Jill Piazza,  
[jpiazza3@uic.edu](mailto:jpiazza3@uic.edu)

## Upcoming events for Spring 99:

- \* Trip to Cahokia, the largest Native American ruins site in the USA
- \* Outings to Chicago museums
- \* Trip to St. Louis
- \* International dinner

If you have any questions, or are interested in becoming a member of this exciting new organization, please contact any of the officers listed above.



# Alpha Phi Omega: A Unique Experience

by Puneet Shroff

Because of a recent barrage of negative publicity, many students think that joining a fraternity or sorority can be detrimental to their college career. However, I am a member of a fraternity that has not only enhanced and enriched my time here at UIC, but it is also one that is unique in that its sole reason for existence is to serve others.

Alpha Phi Omega, a service-based fraternity, is one of the only co-ed fraternities in the United States. Members pledge to serve fellow members, the UIC community, the local community, and ultimately the entire world. Each semester, members must organize at least one service activity in which other members readily participate. Service projects, encompassing many realms of the community, traditionally include volunteer work with organizations like H.O.M.E., Chicago Christian Industrial League (CCIL), AIDS Walk, and many more. Locally, members of APO, as it is commonly known, help out with campus activities including UIC Clean Up and sponsor the annual Battle of the Bands to raise money for several local charities.

Planning of such service projects gives rise to another pillar of Alpha Phi Omega, which is its commitment to leadership development and enhancement. Members not only organize projects and serve on various committees, but they also benefit from the guidance of faculty and staff advisors. UIC's APO advisors include Bernie Castillo, Joe Wohrstein, and new advisor Steve Jones, (who pledged APO as an undergraduate at the Urbana campus). Their leadership and guidance are key to the success and development of APO here at UIC.

The legacy of APO has a rich history with international importance. Founded by Frank Reed Horton at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, APO was quick to gain widespread acceptance and popularity as it spread to many universities and colleges. Since its beginnings in 1925, over 256,000 students have pledged APO. Today, it is the largest fraternity in the United States and the Philippines (where it is one of the highest honors to be considered a part of APO) and chapters are being started all over Canada, Mexico, and Europe. And, next time you're at the corner of Halsted and Harrison, you can witness Chicago and UIC's joint commitment to APO in naming that corner *Frank Reed Horton Way*.

Over winter break, I had the honor of representing APO's UIC chapter as a legislative delegate at the APO National Convention in Minneapolis. I participated in several workshops, and met with delegates from all over the country. We discussed issues facing the fraternity and its future. Overall, attending the convention was a rewarding and exciting experience.

Being a member of Alpha Phi Omega has been, without a doubt, one of the most fulfilling and challenging experiences of my college career to date. And an extra bonus has been finding and associating with so many other students who share a similar set of values and commitment to service.

If you are interested in learning more about APO, feel free to contact me at [pshroff1@uic.edu](mailto:pshroff1@uic.edu) or visit our web site at: [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/apo/index.html](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/apo/index.html)

## Let It Snow?

by Mimi Roy

The recent snow in Chicago left many of us with a huge deficit of time for the indoors. The Blizzard of '99 fell long in gigantic drifts that locked us inside our homes; unless, of course, if we were out with the snowblower — a futile attempt to stray away from nature's determined course. Thus, while the world enveloped itself in white, people were marooned in their own homes.

Maybe marooned is too strong of a word, but the heavy snow was responsible for the close of malls, banks, and even the liquidation of goods at one's local grocery store. Planes were delayed and people were stranded for hours, and often days at O'Hare and Midway. The roads, most of them poorly cleaned in the onslaught of ice, were barren. Normally bustling, sprawling suburbia became a series of ghost towns. The few brave (and perhaps idiotic) individuals who left their homes and ventured out on to the roads had to deal with the slip and slide of vehicles, the obliteration of road signs and demarcations, and the occasional snow plow busily treading along.

Meanwhile, the once busy members of metropolis were left without their usual itinerary. Cabin fever gripped many, but the silent snowfall also gave us an excuse not to engage in the gaggle of duties we so often impose upon ourselves. Instead of rushing off to the stores to exchange that godawful pumice colored sweater, we found ourselves with an abundance of time for things we usually avoid. Though the television provided some with

solace from the cold, others found themselves talking to their families, noticing how long it had really been since they'd talked about something meaningful, rather than the usual nothings of daily speak. Others remembered what it was like to get a double word score in Scrabble as they tried to pass the day by with board games. Gigantic puzzles formed themselves over the floor in an attempt to get the whole picture.

With the trees twinkling with icicles, lawns indiscernible from others, and the sky a blank entity, the outdoors resembled nothing like we'd known in the past few weeks. Children took this opportunity to forge out snow plowed hills, their tiny snowsuit-wearing bodies marking out territory in the expanse of white. A few were acquainted with the joys of snowboarding and sledding, heading out for a triumph of speeding and skidding along the drifts. Snowmen with button noses popped up here and there. Meanwhile, the grown-ups came out, equipped with shovels and all the sloth of a few days, gathering up energy to find their way out of their hibernation.

So, for some of us, what seemed like a disaster became a pleasure, a chance to rediscover the ordinary things that we normally push aside. Common conversations and reveling in the snow were two ways we battled the relentless snowfall and subsequent cutting away from civilization. Indeed, the snows of Chicago reminded us of that boon we take for granted - the change of seasons.

# The Accident (Otherwise Known as My Job)

by Vandana Khungar

The job that I have come to love is the result of an accident, or to put it another way, serendipity in science. I work in Dr. Rao's lab in the College of Medicine West. It is here that a graduate student found what appeared to be a fungus in her plates of colonic cells. After careful analysis, it was found to be Baker's yeast. She carried out further experiments and found interesting trends in chloride transport in the yeast. Her findings became an important part of her thesis work, which she will present next month.

Dr. Rao decided that continuing along this path would be a good project for an undergraduate with a limited amount of time to work on. I am now working on finding the mechanism of chloride transport in *saccharomyces cerevisiae*, or Baker's yeast. This research will shed light on the mechanisms of CFTR, a chloride channel involved in cystic fibrosis.

I was lucky to find a manageable research project as an undergraduate student, as well as to experience being a part of the analysis of data and the creation of new experiments. Now I see that, much like in all aspects of life, what may initially seem a mistake or a stumbling block is often a new opportunity.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Recipients Recognized

The following Honors College students were recently awarded Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships. They were recognized at the annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon, held on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Receiving the awards were: **Staci Britton, Martha Espinoza, Geraldine Franco, Nicholas Gowen, Daniel Hurtado, Juan Lopez** (alum), **Brandon Petersen, Hector Rubalcava, Hugo Solari**, and **Jose Trevino** (alum).

Congratulations to all!

# 1999 National South Asian Students Alliance Conference

by Shivangi Bhatt

I recently attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asian Students Alliance National Conference. The South Asian Students Alliance (SASA) is a national network for students descending from South Asian countries, which include India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Maldives. The idea behind the alliance is to provide a political and social forum for South Asian youth, while empowering them as a community and providing educational and employment opportunities through a national network.

The SASA network was an idea started by the very active South Asian and Indian student groups of east coast schools such as Rutgers University, Penn State University, and Brown University. Over the past six years, as the idea of SASA caught on, schools all over the country became involved in the network, with the national SASA convention finally moving out of the east coast and into Atlanta last year.

This year's conference, the largest to date, with over 2,000 students in attendance, was held for the first time in the Midwest, at Chicago's Sheraton Hotel and Towers from January 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the conference included the keynote speech by actress (*City of Joy; Fire*), member of parliament, and devout humanitarian Shabana Azmi who spoke about activism in our communities, as well as a heated debate on affirmative action between the infamous author Dinesh D'Souza and Dr. Vijay Prashad.

Other daytime activities at the conference included panel discussions, presentations, dramatic interpretations, and speeches on issues facing South Asians today. Topics such as traditional vs. modern views on sex, gender, and sexuality, identity issues between first and second generation South Asians, arranged marriages, South Asian socioeconomic issues, work ethics, and others were explored in depth. After watching presentations, students would break off into small groups and have discussions led by a peer facilitator. A career fair and cultural fair were also held amidst all of the workshops.

I attended the SASA National Representatives Conference, which is a group of 75 students who are working to lay down the ground rules of the national network. Since the alliance is so young, and until now has only met once annually, there was a lot of work to get done. Starting each morning at 9:00 a.m., we met and discussed the SASA constitution in an effort to ratify it, and broke down the country into regions and elected regional chairs, as a step toward a more organized network. While we did not get to enjoy some of the interesting forums and activities that the other 1,900 participants got to see, it was all worth it in the end when the national constitution was ratified. It was gratifying to know that we had helped to move SASA in the right direction.

The daytime programming at the conference was excellent, but the SASA nightlife was spectacular as well. Starting on the evening of January 14<sup>th</sup>, SASA sponsored parties every night of the conference for its registered participants. The parties were held at local nightclubs such as House of Blues and Palladium, and DJ's specializing in South Asian remix sounds were invited from all over the country. On the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup>, a national South Asian cultural show was held at the Chicago Theatre, and over 2,500 people got to see phenomenal acts from all over the country. The culmination of the conference, however, was a semiformal dance, held in the Sheraton's Grand Ballroom on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Almost all conference participants attended the dance, making it a spectacular end to a wonderful conference.

Overall, the conference was a wonderful experience. We had fun, we partied, we met peers from all over the country, we learned about the issues that deeply impacted our lives, and we even got a little work done. In short, it was definitely a weekend well spent.

# Life in the Gutter

by Eric Yang

December 1st, 1998 marked the start of a very cold winter in the city of Chicago. However, behind the walls of the CCC bowling alley, things were just beginning to heat up. It was the time for the annual showdown that matched wits and intellect, and some physical labor skills. It was time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Honors Floor Bowling Competition.

Already a highly anticipated annual event, the second annual bowling competition took place between the first and second floor residents of the Commons West dormitories. This measure of superiority is what truly determines the worthiness of the Honors Floor residents; creative talent and intellectual capabilities arrive at a distant second. Ten bowlers from each of these floors were extremely anxious to claim their superiority. This battle, which

voked arduous passion and endless determination to knock over some pins, took place at 8:00 p.m. the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

In last year's contest, the second floor emerged victorious, sweeping away the first floor with an average of ten points. The total average for each floor was calculated, and

the floor with the higher average was the winner. The top three bowlers also received cash prizes, in proportion to their ranking. Was the second floor going to smash the first floor mercilessly once again? Or was the first floor ready to return the favor by violently discombobulating their second floor enemies?

Dismissing their upcoming finals as insignificant compared to the fruits of a bowling victory, many of the Honors residents had prepared for this competition longer than anyone may think. As second floor freshman bowler **Yasha Kadhodayan** confessed, "When I filled out my housing application, I made sure that I was on the winning bowling team. The second floor is always on top." How true in an architectural sense. Was it also going to apply in bowling dominance?

Though many of these bowlers were freshman, quite a few veterans returned. Returning players included returning second floor residents **Kunal Thakkar** and **Eric Yang**—who both placed within the top three bowlers last year. Competitors also included the hard-working Resident Assistants who made this event possible because of their great love for bowling, **Danielle Brandstetter** and **Matthew Steward** (first floor and second floor R.A.'s respectively). There were even a few defectors who joined forces

with the second floor this year. Coincidence? Not for sophomore bowler **Huzefa Master**. He confidently stated, "The main reason for the change of housing assignment was for this event specifically. I've waited a whole semester for this."

Despite the intimidating second floor roster, the first floor remained quite adamant in their quest for glory and was far from unnerved. First floor resident/bowler **Matthew Wang** screamed for their blood, saying "we're going to *kill* them!"

At a few minutes past eight, the bowling began. It was a fascinating sight to see floor residents bond and marvel at each other's bowling skills, or simply mock them. The bowling alley echoed noises of pins being knocked into oblivion. Bowling balls were painstakingly chosen and used as weapons of destruction. The bowler-warriors engaged in an intense contest, knocking down, or attempting to knock down, any wooden object shaped like a milk bottle that stood in their way. The majority of balls managed to either take a good number of pins down, or landed in the pits of Bowling Hell: the gutter. For the residents who experienced this all-time low, it was life in the gutter for them, until the next frame, where an opportunity for redemption lay. There was laughter, tears, and cries of utter joy as the alley would occasionally be completely eliminated of pins, denoting either a strike or spare. This tense atmosphere was an unforgettable experience. Although first floor bowler **Ashish Sud** was unavailable for comment, his roommate, **Rajeev Garg**, who described his roommate's description of the competition as "awesome." One simple word that epitomized the fun and joys of bowling.

Two full games were played; at the very end of the tenth frame of the second game, the averages of the bowlers' scores were nervously calculated. The highest score was accumulated by first floor dweller **Jay Shah**. The next highest scorers reside on the second floor; **David Limsui**, who placed second, and returning winner **Kunal Thakkar** who came in at third place. However, Jay's impressive total was not enough to make up for the deficit of about ten points that the second floor's average beat the first floor by. The first floor had an average of 103, but the second floor scored an average of 112. Once again, the second floor emerged victorious. History had repeated itself once again.

Since that fateful day, whenever the topic of bowling is brought up on the second floor, **Bimal Shah** always is quick to point out the win that he and his compatriots achieved. "In conclusion, the victory was a simple result of us (the second floor) having better control of our balls," he says, with a tone of satisfaction.



# Politically ‘CORRECT?’

by Tara Mythri Raghavan

We live in a time of fear, when everything we do or say is watched with a hawk’s eye. With this cryptic statement, I begin my tirade against a phenomenon known to us as “political correctness.” The recent onslaught of politeness from those around me has stunned me in every way. Under their apparent politeness, I often see a layer or two of mockery, like makeup on an actor’s face. The masks that we place on ourselves have turned honest, hardworking people into bumbling idiots.

From an early age, I have learned to speak the truth and try to be nice. Today, however, honesty has numerous facades and nicety is a concept for the dinosaurs. Despite the complaints we make of Darwin’s survival of the fittest theory, we live in such a world. In order to get ahead, we are willing to disguise truth with fancy words. PC or political correctness is the art of putting such words together. For example, for most of my life, I have been told that I define shortness. Recently, however, I am called “vertically challenged,” as if that replacement is meant to be comforting. Being called short has never bothered me and I have lived a decent life at 5 feet and 1 inch. In fact, after seeing how a family friend survived his car accident due to his shortness, I feel that it is important to live with what you brought with you at birth.

Although it is ill mannered to call someone a fatso, is it not equally bad to call that person horizontally gifted? Why do people thus feel the need to make up such terms? Perhaps this is because saying what you mean is difficult and it becomes necessary to say what other people want to hear in order to appease one’s peers. Rather than comforting a person, you are forced to mock them with veiled statements. This lessens the importance of true communication and humans are left to act like robots, devoid of emotion entirely. Excessive politeness then becomes highly useless in many ways.

(cont’d. on next page)

# Book Review:

## Katharine Graham’s Personal History

by Joanna Kuppy



If you’re searching for an incredible book to read, look no further than Katharine Graham’s Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, Personal History. I’m not usually a non-fiction fan, but this book stands out from all others I’ve read. Not only is it an amazing story, but the way Graham tells it takes it to a completely different level.

As publisher of *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and others, Katharine Graham is one of the most respected figures in the newspaper and publishing industry. As she recounts her life from birth onwards, the reader feels the excitement of the University of Chicago student, of the beginning journalist; and of the young bride watching her husband move fluidly within Washington’s powerful elite, including President Kennedy.

We share her joy of being a new mother; the pain of watching her husband spiral into mental illness; the grief of the widow coping with her husband’s death, and the daunting task of taking over the reins of the *Post*. We also witness the triumph of the talented and accomplished executive who has earned the respect of her peers the world over. Her metamorphosis over the years is, quite simply, astounding.

However, Graham’s story is much more than just a “personal history.” It is also a glimpse of the last fifty years of American history from a woman who lived at the center of it. Graham personally knew many of the definitive figures in many spheres of late-twentieth century life, including John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, Jacqueline Kennedy, Truman Capote, Lyndon Johnson, and Warren Buffett, to name but a few. Her personal and insightful recollections of these people add a newer, more discerning dimension to our understanding of the times. She recounts events such as the Cuban Missile crisis, the assassination of President Kennedy, and various presidential campaigns in this way, interjecting anecdotes and her own analyses of what was going on to give the reader a more complete picture of the situation.

However, Graham’s insight on Watergate and the Pentagon Papers case draws in the reader more than any other section of this book. In 1971, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* published excerpts of secret government documents (the Pentagon Papers) which chronicled controversial policy decisions made during the Vietnam War. The Nixon administration immediately issued a restraining order against both papers. This landmark case and the resulting Supreme Court decision affirmed the right of newspapers to publish what they saw fit. The accompanying publicity thrust the *Post* onto the national stage and paved the way for Watergate.

The Watergate break-in story was broken by two young *Post* reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, and eventually resulted in the resignation of President Nixon. In light of today’s headlines, perhaps the Watergate story has more relevance now than at any point during the past twenty-five years.

Katharine Graham has written a compelling page-turner. It is a story told with grace, candor, and, above all, dignity. Whether you are looking to expand your knowledge of contemporary American history or simply read a fascinating story, I can highly recommend Personal History.

## Politically Correct? (cont'd. from previous page)

Unfortunately, political correctness is almost revered in this world what with entire dictionaries of this pseudo-language seen littering bookstores. In addition, web pages of nonsense phrases are now prevalent on the Internet. Soon these statements will become the basis of a new language and the English language will become extinct.

The extent to which political correctness hovers over our lives often borders on the realm of ridiculousness. For example, there is a new Barbie coming out with a larger figure, which is termed in PC terms as "anatomically correct." Despite the fact that young girls often look upon Barbie as an idol, it is not necessary to change the figure of a doll in order to prove the point that the body comes in different shapes and sizes. By changing the outward look of a doll, one emphasizes the importance of appearance rather than intelligence. It is perhaps more important for parents and the media to promote real life heroes as role models. Strong women like Susan B. Anthony and Mother Teresa should be the real role models in this day and age, instead of those who only concentrate on the superficial aspects of our lives. The time has come for people to replace Barbie with Eleanor Roosevelt and G.I. Joe with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a child's mind, for we are building through these PC changes a new generation of depthless people.

Political correctness disregards the importance of values in many ways. For example, in the past only bullies called people names. Now, everyone can call anyone anything as long as it is termed in the proper way. Through inventing this language, people are promoting name-calling in a large way. The next question becomes: "To what extent are we going to put aside our values in order to look cool?" Perhaps it is just me, but I believe

that our values are more important than making a "cool" statement. If people embraced their values, there would be no need for political correctness, for traditional values often suggest that silence is golden, or if you cannot say anything nice, don't say anything at all. These statements, which have been drilled into our heads from day one of our lives, lose meaning in the age of political correctness and with them, the values that underlie them. It is often nicer to not say anything than finding a suitable PC term for the matter. Common sense, which is based on our values, can tell a person when to keep their mouth shut, while PC can destroy the need for common sense. Labels are not needed at all according to most traditional value systems, but descriptions need to be made. However, the old terms are often more accurate in painting a picture. In addition, perhaps not everyone likes being called by their PC names. It is possible that vertically gifted people would like to be called tall or perhaps disabled individuals would like to know why they are differently abled.

Perhaps I am expecting too much from intelligent human beings when I request that everyone pull off their masks, but perhaps that is just what needs to be expected. The problem with political correctness is directly correlated with the decline in honesty in everyday relations. Today, we world citizens are the dogs in a "dog eat dog" world. We use political correctness in order to disguise our true beliefs that come from our values. This creates a very superficial society, whose only concession to nicety is the changes in its outward appearance. This problem reflects the fear that we have towards each other and in many ways, towards ourselves. There is no need for political correctness in a world in which people are naturally nice to each other. Instead of supporting a new language, it is perhaps more important for us to embrace good manners.

### Honors College Information Update Form

Please update any of the following information that may have changed recently and return this form to the Honors College office manager, Johnette Foster, 103 BH. Thanks!

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Old Major \_\_\_\_\_

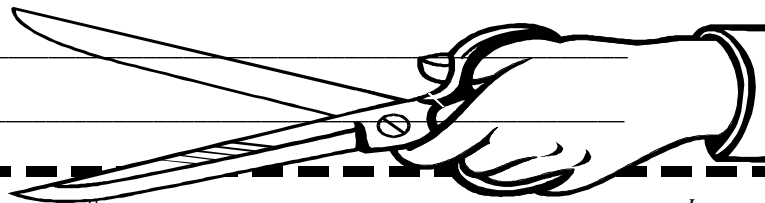
New Major \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_





*Once Upon a Time...*

It's almost time for the

6th Annual

**Honors College Ball**

**Saturday, March 6th**

**6:00 p.m. - midnight**

**The Presidential Ballroom**

of the

**Midland Hotel**

176 West Adams, Chicago

Only \$30 per person for an enchanted  
evening of dinner & dancing

For more information,  
contact Vandana Khungar ([vkhung1@uic.edu](mailto:vkhung1@uic.edu))  
or Puneet Shroff ([pshrof1@uic.edu](mailto:pshrof1@uic.edu))