

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

April 1999

## Important Upcoming Dates

Finals Week                      May 3 - 7

Senior Banquet                  May 6

Completion  
Forms Due                        May 7

Commencement                 May 9

## Red Shoes Revived!



If you have ever doubted the existence of creativity and individuality underneath the drab exterior of UIC, doubt no longer. Your fellow undergraduates across the entire spectrum of majors have been very busy lately, staying up until the morning light, piecing together the stories and poems of their mind's eye, and searching for that perfect word to express their thoughts. They have struggled and pondered and the fruits of their labor are now ready.

You, on the other hand, have it easy. All you need to do is pick up a copy of the inaugural edition of the Honors College Literary Magazine *Red Shoes Revived* at the front desk (BH 103) for one dollar (cheap!). So, take a chance and peek into the rich creativity of your fellow undergrads. For information regarding *Red Shoes Revived* please contact Chris Turek [cturek1@uic.edu](mailto:cturek1@uic.edu)

## This Year's Ball a Smashing Success!

by Eric Yang

In the history of Honors College Ball galas, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999 was a night that would not soon be forgotten. This classy event, with the fairy tale implications of its "Once Upon a Time" theme was open to the entire UIC community for a night of dinner, dancing, and revelry.

The Honors College Advisory Board began their extensive planning efforts for the 1999 Ball the day after last year's Ball. Ball Committee chairperson, HCAB Vice-President **Vandana Khungar** spearheaded the fundraising and site selection efforts. After exploring other options, including venues such as the Art Institute, Sears Tower, Shedd Aquarium, the Midland Hotel was selected. The Ball was held in its elegant Presidential Ballroom two years ago, and its stylish decorations and chic ambience were once again a big draw.

At last, through turmoil and endless planning and organizing, the Ball was set to begin. Around 6:00 p.m., a crowd of over 200 snappily dressed students, alumni, staff, and faculty members began arriving at the Midland, marveling at the grand designs of the ballroom. It was exciting to see everyone dressed so elegantly (a far cry from the usual bundled winter fashions of students) and taking part in a grand tradition which seemed to bring out the Gatsby-esque socialite in everyone.

The Presidential Ballroom itself was plastered with mirrors, and the dinner tables illuminated the darkened atmosphere with the floating candles that acted as each tables' centerpiece. A string quartet added to the tasteful setting. Dinner began around 7 and guests were served a succulent salad course, a chicken or vegetarian entrée, and a sumptuous dessert as a finish to the delicious meal.

After an hour of feasting and entertaining, the dancing began when the DJ started the music. The festivities at this year's Ball lasted until 1 in the morning, leaving a number of exhausted, but very satisfied survivors of the five-hour marathon. When sophomore **Anagha Loharikar** and freshman **Devi Kuchipudi** were asked to comment about that night, they both stated simultaneously: "It was the bomb!"

Indeed, the Ball was a rousing success. Upon reminiscing on the development of this grand event, Vandana said, "This could not have been possible without the help of the numerous volunteers and Board members that were able to make this event a reality. I would also like to thank all the organizations and businesses who supported us and helped make this Ball a great success." A great success indeed! The Honors College Advisory Board hopes to see you again at next year's Ball.

See the Honors College web page for photos of this year's festivities!

<http://www.hc.uic.edu>

# Honors Day Recognizes Honors College Excellence

The following Honors College students were recognized at the 1999 Honors Day on Wednesday, April 21st. Congratulations!

Scholarship Association

Shirin Ahmed  
 Holly Biggs  
 Danielle Brandstetter  
 Gabriella Brunn  
 Rufo Calimlim  
 Meta Dunn  
 Elizabeth Garrido  
 Elsa Garza  
 Nicholas Gowen  
 Nakisha Harris  
 Justin Joyce  
 Oveys Mansuri  
 Adriana Milewska-Hadlaw  
 Peter Moschovis  
 Jessica Newton  
 Malgorzata Nowicka  
 Pooja Pathak  
 Tara Raghavan  
 Scott Retterer  
 Rudyard W. Sadleir  
 Kaushik Shah  
 Kim Summers  
 Steven Svetlik  
 Agnes Szabo  
 Marina Tharayil

J. Watumull Award  
 Stanley O. Ikenberry Award  
 Sigma Lambda Beta Award  
 Thomas Beckham Memorial Award  
 Herbert J. Stein Memorial Award  
 Sandra and Furio Alberti Memorial Award  
 Jeri Parker Award  
 Violet Bergquist-Redding Award  
 Stanley O. Ikenberry Award  
 Eugertha Bates Memorial Award  
 Stanley O. Ikenberry Award  
 Donald and Leah Riddle Prize  
 Donald and Patricia Langenberg Award  
 President's Award  
 F. Gaylord Cox/Pi Alpha Tau Award  
 Trace-Derrick Award  
 Norman Parker Award  
 Mays/Nelson/Dineen  
 Harold Simon Memorial Award  
 Joel Rothschild Memorial Award  
 B. J. Merkle Memorial Award  
 Herman "HY" Berkowitz  
 Peter and Elsie May Klassen Memorial Award  
 Ralph L. Westfall  
 Harold Simon Memorial Award  
 BP Amoco Corporation Scholarship  
 BP Amoco Corporation Scholarship  
 Becker CPA Review Award  
 Jerry Weiss Scholarship  
 Becker CPA Review Award  
 Illinois Geographical Society Outstanding

Dept. of Accounting

Kevin Desouza  
 Shaneka Dyson  
 Hector Rubalcava  
 Joseph Tarshish  
 Thi Trieu  
 Seth Pingree

Dept. of Anthropology, Geography  
 Senior in Geography Award

Dept. of Biological Sciences

Seth Pingree  
 Preeti Prakash  
 Clare Rudall  
 Clare Rudall  
 Ronald Thant

Biochemistry Program

Tara Raghavan  
 Gregory Alexopoulos

Dept. of Chemistry  
 Dept. of Economics

Dept. of Electrical Engr & Comp. Sci.

Anna Cooper  
 Meet Jariwala  
 Garyleo Nool  
 Chirag Patel  
 Amit Shah  
 Amit Shah  
 Adwait Talathi

Dept. of English

Erika Chen  
 Jennifer Solheim

Dept. of Information & Decision Science  
 Dept. of Mathematics  
 Dept. of Physics

Marco Yap  
 Kevin Jones  
 Scott Beyda  
 Rajeev Garg  
 Ajay Nemani  
 Nancy Maloney  
 Malgorzata Kujawa  
 Marie Martino  
 Ewa Sarnacka

Carter Award  
 Louis Pastuer Award  
 Mark A. Wyatt Award  
 Rietz/Shapiro Award for Biochemistry  
 Rietz/Shapiro Award for Biochemistry  
 Freud Award  
 Winifred Geldard Award  
 Winifred Geldard Award  
 EECS Senior Scholarship Award  
 EECS Senior Scholarship Award  
 EECS Senior Scholarship Award  
 EECS Senior Scholarship Award  
 William Everitt Student Award  
 EECS Senior Scholarship Award  
 Ernest Van Keuren Award  
 Seth Rosen Memorial Scholarship  
 Walgreen Information Technology Scholarship  
 MSCS Award  
 Ogden Livermore Scholarship  
 Chicago Circle Dept. of Physics Scholarship  
 Seymour Marguiles Award  
 Dean's Book Award  
 Axeman Prize  
 Faculty Prize-PFEM  
 Faculty Prize-Graphic Design

## Sadleir Named Goldwater Scholar

Rudyard Sadleir, Junior, Earth & Environmental Sciences has been named a 1999 Goldwater Scholar.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater, who has served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

## Psi Chi Inducts Honors Students



Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, would like to acknowledge and congratulate the excellent students who made up one of the largest induction groups that UIC has ever seen.

The following Honors College students were inducted into Psi Chi earlier this spring: **Danielle M. Brandstetter, Izabela Bucko, Nerissa S. Caballes, Bartho Caponi, III, Jibby E. Chittet, Jessica S. Dilley, Ruben V. Dinets, Kara C. Doering, Rachel B. Friedman, Arletta D. Grabczynska, Toseef Hasan, Frances E. Kim, Kevin T. King, Charlotte B. Kunz, Margarita Mendoza, Ketherine M. Mengler, Anna L. Mollo, Pooja Nagpal, Jessica R. Newton, Pauline Padrul, Anjali S. Panjwani, Dimitri G. Perivoliotis, Amanda E. Reiman, Sheri Safranski, Mitchell C. Sandy, Kunal H. Thakkar, Sonja V. Veile, Russell L. Willingham, and Tracie M. Wong,**

The following Honors College students are Psi Chi officers: President: **Matthew J. Badanek**; Vice President: **Michelle Prestidge**; and Historian: **Kara C. Doering**. The faculty adviser is Dr. Linda J. Skitka.

If you would like more information about Psi Chi, please feel free to e-mail us at [psichi@uic.edu](mailto:psichi@uic.edu). or visit our web site at: [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/hon/psichi/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/hon/psichi/)

## Phi Kappa Phi Inducts New Members; Awards Research Grants

The annual induction ceremony of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was held on Tuesday, April 13th. Along with close to two hundred students, four new faculty initiates were inducted: Darnell F. Hawkins, African American Studies; Steve Jones, Communication; John R. Regalbuto, Chemical Engineering; and Sandra L. Theis, Nursing.

Phi Kappa Phi President Donald Marshall of the English Department also presented several students with \$700 research grants. Following are the Honors College students who were recipients of this grant and their research the grants will help support: **Danielle Brandstetter**, Senior, English-Writing and **Michelle Prestidge**, Senior, Psychology: "Deception & Children's Nonverbal Behaviors"; **Rudyard Sadleir**, Junior, Earth & Environmental Sciences: "Morphometric Analysis Applied to Theropod Dinosaur Teeth"; and **Nicole Wane**, Senior, Exercise Physiology: "MyoNuclear Degeneration after Exercise in Rat Muscle."

After hearing featured speaker and Communication Department Head Steve Jones give an insightful and thought-provoking address entitled "What's New About New Media and Does It Matter?", the inductees and their guests enjoyed a reception.

Following is a list of Honors College students who are the newest initiates of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. **Alla Aizenberg, Matthew J. Badanek, Rajat Batra, Lisa M. Bernard, Holly M. Biggs, Sari A. Breslin, Vanessa Brown, Izabela Bucko, Naketa A. Conley, Corie Cook, Amy Ann Dahlquist, Andrew Joseph Fabiano, Lisa M. Ficco, Rajeev K. Garg, Erich J. Gierhart, Abigail M. Go, Arletta Grabczynska, April Shanelle Hoover, Gloria M. Huang, John William Hunniford, Jason R. Johnson, Greg S. Jones, Houssam A. Kassem, Vandana Khungar, Victoria A. Klimas, Chong W. Lee, Maria Lee, Grant Kim Ming Lee, David Limsui, Sophia Matragou, Megan Margaret McCue, Scott Millington, Rachel L. Morris, Christine Anne Nelsen, Jim N. Nicolaou, Babafemi Odugbesan, Pauline Padrul, Nupoor K. Panchal, Veronica P. Perez, Leonidas C. Pittos, Michelle L. Prestidge, Christine A. Ranieri, Amanda E. Reiman, Rudyard W. Sadleir, J. Bradley Sargent, Erika Remzia Sarich, Chad Joseph Schwartz, Luke T. Sehy, Nirali Shah, Minesh P. Shah, Ami N. Shah, Simak A. Shaikh, Puneet Shroff, Brian Edward Stankos, Michele Sumstine, Steven Robert Svetlik, Kevin K. Tao, Nathaniel Tarner, Anna Tartakover, Trisha Elaine Tepavchevich, Sarah E. Unterman, Ankur V. Vaghani, Sonja V. Veile, Nicole S. Wane, Jaimee L. Ward, Mary J. Wishnew, Laura Wojciechowski, Kristine A. Wollscheid, Eric H. Yang, Cheryl Young, Shira Zipperstein, and Sarah E. Zolno. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**



Phi Kappa Phi President Don Marshall and new PKP initiate Erika Sarich listen as Rudyard Sadler explains how his PKP grant will aid in his research.

To see more photos of the PKP induction ceremony, go to the Phi Kappa Phi link on the Honors College web page: <http://www.hc.uic.edu>



## Phi Eta Sigma Inducts Freshmen; Awards Scholarships

The following Honors College freshmen were recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Eta Sigma: **Alin K. Abraham, Hera Ahmed, Maria Ahn, Salma Akbar, Rasha Inas Ali, Angel A. Alvarez, Ozer Batu, Julie Marie Berland, Shailender K. Bhatia, Sandeep K. Bhatia, Traci E. Blatt, Jennifer Lynn Bunte,**

**Catherine R. Cameron, Albert Chan, Victor Arthur Chen, Terry Chiganos, Jr., Kerry Carrell Dohm, Carl Patrick Dominguez, Demetrios John Douros, Joseph Esposito, Kathy Elizabeth Fit, Salil Jayant Ginde, Rannu Grewal, James Scott Houston, Grant K. Hsing, Monika Iwanosek, Pooja Manohar Jain, Sri Devi Jampala, Shimoni A. Kadakia, Yasha Kadkhodayan, Vijay Shyam Khiani, Tashil Kim, Alice J. Kim, Bryan Min Kim, Sally Corinne Klasen, Melissa Marie Kramer, Ryan Quinn Krueger, Neda Kusolvisitkul, Anna Lee, Tammy Young Lee, Andrew Liaw, Lisa M. Lindeman, Melissa Lee Macievic, Renuka Malik, Junaid N. Mansuri, Peter C. Matthes, Jeffrey Phillip Meglin, Jeffrey M. Meier, Parag Ghanshyam Merai, Jason William Mitan, Lawton K. Moy, Trushar Navin Naik, Daniel Naklicki, Mohammed Nasiruddin, George Nijmeh, Monica Oberoi, Shuchi B. Patel, Annette Nicole Pellegrino, Wendy S. Pippenger, Jessica L. Purdy, Nishath A. Quader, Cherie Ryoo, Aditi H. Shah, Tanvi M. Shah, Ninad Hasmukh Shah, Jay Devendra Shah, Jay Pravin Shah, Michelle G. Sta.Maria, Agnes Szabo, Vidhya Viswanathan, Matthew Wang, Lea Weintraub, Jessica Lenore Wilson, Laura Elizabeth Wilson, and Lawrence Yuen.**

Additionally, at the induction ceremony on April 19th, Phi Eta Sigma awarded scholarships of \$500 each to Honors College juniors **Andrew Fabiano** and **Rachel Seed.**

Congratulations to the new initiates and the scholarship winners.



### More Honors Day Award Winners

At the Honors Day ceremony on Wednesday, April 21st, several Honors College awards were presented.

Honors Council awards went to: **Matthew Badanek, Artemis Bakopoulos, Shrujal Baxi, Nisha Chhablani, Lorna Donley, Doina Dumitru, Renuka Malik, Osedebamen Omoike, Preeti Prakash, and Mimosa Roy.**

Additionally, **Trushar Naik** received the John Curtis Johnson Award, and **Meta Dunn** was awarded the Nancy Twiss Scholarship.

Congratulations to all the winners.



### Activities Honorary Society Inducts New Members

The following Honors College students were inducted into the Activities Honorary Society for 1999: **Danielle Brandstetter, Reema Kapur, Magdalin Peter, Serihy Pylawka, and Christina Richardson.**

AHS was established 49 years ago to recognize students whose level of student activity and leadership has contributed significantly to the campus culture. Nominees are evaluated based on the minimum requirements of involvement in three or more diverse student organizations and a demonstrated key leadership role in at least one of the three. Selection decisions are made by a committee of current AHS members. AHS is also unique among UIC student organizations in the active participation of its alumni.

## Honors College Seniors Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

On April 14th, the following Honors College seniors in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences were inducted into the Iota of Illinois Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Congratulations to the class of 1999!

**Gregory Alexopoulos, Economics; Lisa Bernard, Communication, Tramayne Butler, Anthropology; Alejandro Castro, Teaching of English; Nisha Chhablani, Philosophy; Lisa Cook, Psychology; Anna Cooper, French & Economics; Amy Dahlquist, Teaching of English; Quang Dinh, Biochemistry; Ankush Goel, Biochemistry; Arletta Grabczynska, Psychology & Political Science; Nadia Hasan, Psychology; Vu Ho, Statistics & Operations Research; Amy Hoak, English-Writing; Soojong Hong, Biochemistry; John Hunniford, Biological**



**Sciences; Amit Kalra, Psychology; Ami Kurani, Biological Sciences; Mona Lala, Psychology; Christopher Lee, Biological Sciences; Sati Malik, History; Goud Maragani, English; Laura Miller, Psychology; Tanveer Najjullah, Psychology; Anjali Panjwani, Psychology; Seema Pasha, Biological Sciences; Aasita Patel, Psychology; Romas Petrelis, Philosophy; Seth Pingree, Geography; Eric Piper, English; Alexander Prociuk, Mathematics; Tara Raghavan, Chemistry; Grisel Ramirez, Psychology; Christine Ranieri, English-Writing; Madhav Rao, Psychology; Eugene Sadhu, Mathematics & Computer Science; Yazmin Sanchez, Political Science; Comilla Sasson, Psychology; Carina Schultz, Psychology; Razvan Scobercea, Economics; Minesh Shah, Biological Sciences; Jennifer Shen, Chemistry; Elaine Shreder, Psychology; Jennifer Solheim, English; Ronald Thant, Biochemistry; Laura Uselding, Biological Sciences; Madhuri Ventrapagada, Biological Sciences; and Charlie Viturawong, Biological Sciences.**



*You can make a difference!*

# ASB Makes a Difference

by Sagun Desai

Partying on a beach, veggin' in front of the TV at home, visiting relatives, taking a road trip—do any of these describe your spring break? Most people, with the exception of about 70 ASB members, would answer “yes” to this question. Instead of another “typical” spring break, these 70 students experienced an “alternative” spring break.

Alternative Spring Break, or ASB, is a new (since last fall) organization at UIC. Dedicated to the belief that one person can make a difference, ASB members (including many Honors College students) devote their week off of school to do volunteer work and community service. Since living in the university environment may shelter students from many pressing issues out in the ‘real world,’ groups of students travel to sites across the country and immerse themselves for a week of volunteering. ASB works with volunteer agencies to coordinate details of each site’s specific needs.

Any organization’s first year of existence can be challenging, and ASB’s inaugural year was no exception. Due to the efforts of many hardworking board and committee members, ASB was able to travel to five volunteer locations. Spring Break seemed a long way off when preparation began back in September. Fundraising, transportation arrangements, and site selections were all things that needed to be taken care of.

Besides the usual candy and flower sales, fundraising chairperson **Kartika Bajaj** organized some atypical activities to raise money. ASB members turned into elves when they spent part of their Thanksgiving holiday putting up the lavish Christmas decorations at Nordstrom’s department store. All money earned was donated to the ASB fund.

Another exciting event was the First Annual ASB Student/Faculty Auction. Students worked hard to secure contributions from faculty, administration, and local businesses. All donations were auctioned off at this wildly successful (and fun) event! The bidding became fierce and competitive as items such as computers, airplane rides, weekend getaways, and dinners for two were offered to the enthusiastic crowd. Thanks to support from faculty and administration, including donations from Provost Elizabeth Hoffman and Chancellor David Broski, the auction alone raised over \$2,000 for ASB. Plans are already underway for next year’s auction.

Transportation chairperson **Minesh Shah** had his work cut out for him. Vans large enough to accommodate up to 15 people for each trip needed to be rented. The details involved in this task were monumental. But due to his diligence, a deal was worked out with Budget and everyone was able to travel comfortably to his or her specific volunteer site.

Each trip was assigned two site leaders whose responsibilities included promoting group participation and cooperation. Safety was an important concern for all volunteers and all site leaders were required to be certified in CPR. Activities chairperson **Anagha Loharikar** organized a CPR training session that took place in the Honors College lounge on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Site chairperson Ryan Tyrrell was responsible for researching the proposed sites. She was in charge of investigating each site’s specific needs and conditions. Other considerations were lodging arrangements at each location, which ranged from nearby university dorms, to an old lodge, to sleeping on the floor in a small room that could barely accommodate each volunteer!

The five locations/sites which were agreed upon were: Crotched Mountain, New Hampshire: a rehabilitation center for mentally and physically disabled children; Kansas City: a Habitat for Humanity project; St. Louis: Faith House (a house for drug-exposed children); Columbus, Ohio: Rosemont Center (a center for emotionally troubled youth); and Eagle Butte, South Dakota: Cheyenne River Reservation (paying special attention to the youth on the reservation).

Individual experiences varied widely, depending on the assigned site. Some were involved in maintenance of a site’s buildings and grounds and took part in more physical labor, while others participated in more personal interactions. For example, those who were in New Hampshire and St. Louis were involved in daily interaction with children. Duties ranged from feeding and rocking babies to playing with and reading to the children, giving them an overall feeling of comfort. Sophomore (and Treasurer) **David Limsui** had his very first diaper changing experience at Faith House in St. Louis. He said he now appreciates his own and other mothers more than ever before!

Tasks of a different nature were encountered at the Rosemont Juvenile Center in Columbus, Ohio, and the Habitat for Humanity project in Kansas City. Those who worked at the Center mainly painted walls and cleaned kitchens, among other duties. Volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity project participated in more manual labor, helping demolish burned homes.

The group who traveled to Eagle Butte, South Dakota probably participated in the greatest variety of tasks. These ASB volunteers were assigned to work at the Cheyenne River Reservation. In addition to painting fences at the rural, poverty-stricken reservation, volunteers interacted with the children and also learned about the Lakota Sioux culture and community. Junior Matt Wettergreen claimed, “It [the experience on the reservation] gave me a different view on a culture that is dying and it was an enriching experience.”

An exciting and spiritual encounter for all these ASB’ers was the evening they were invited to take part in the sacred Inipi Sweat Lodge ceremony with several of the tribal elders. Several participants spoke of this experience as being “life altering.” Junior (and ASB President) **Arun Reddy** added, “It was an intense bonding experience.”

On April 5, all of the different groups came together for a slide show presentation. This was an opportunity for everyone to share stories and pictures of his or her weeklong experiences with the whole organization. Spending so much time together in close quarters for a week had forged some strong bonds and this gathering was a welcome reunion for almost everyone. At the end of the evening, all concluded that their ASB trip was one of the greatest experiences of their lives. Anagha Loharikar put it best when she said, “Everyone came back smiling.”

*(cont’d. on page 8)*

## Flaherty Scholarships Go to Honors College World Travelers

Nine Honors College students will be the recipients of Flaherty Scholarships for Study Abroad.

Following is a list of those students and the city or country where they will be studying: Summer 1999: **Myrna Carrera** (Spain), **Michiko Goto** (London), **Rosa Jimenez** (Mexico), **Nirali Shah** (London), **Ravi Shah** (London); Fall 1999: **Lorna Donley** (Paris), **Joanne Rzadzki** (Mexico); Academic Year 1999-2000: **Rachel Seed** (England), and **Zhou Min Wang** (Tokyo).

Congratulations to the Honors College world travelers! *(And don't forget to write about your experiences for the Ampersand when you get back to UIC!)*



## Student Leaders Elected

Several Honors College students have recently been elected to important leadership positions on campus.

Freshman **Angel Alvarez** has been elected President of Undergraduate Student Government. New assembly members include junior **Nazia Sheriff**.

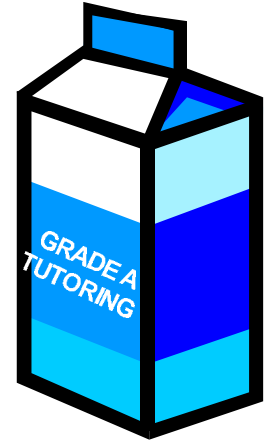
Junior **Arun Reddy** was elected as the newest student member of the Board of Trustees.

Additionally, freshman **Lawton Moy** is the new Vice President of the Residence Housing Association (RHA).

Congratulations to all the winners!

## One Super Tutor

by Mimi Roy



Pooja Nagpal is a junior majoring in Applied Psychology/pre-med here at UIC. But what makes her different is that she is one of the Honors College's "Super Tutors." In case you haven't heard, "Super Tutoring" is the free tutoring service offered to all UIC students in a wide variety of subjects. Available Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the program has tutors such as Pooja, who are dedicated to helping other students.

Pooja has been a tutor since the beginning of this school year. When asked about what inspired her to become an Honors College tutor, she replied, "Well honestly, I first did this to fulfill my Honors Activity because no other Honors classes or seminars would fit in my schedule. This semester, I decided to be a volunteer tutor. I think I can help people understand the subjects that I know. By the same token, I keep the material I just learned fresh in my mind by tutoring."

An encouraging note is that most of these tutors have also benefited from tutoring themselves. Perhaps this doesn't qualify as official certification, but it does help the tutors understand the students' perspective. Students often come in to the Honors College seeking help after a long night of desperately trying to understand what's going on in class, frazzled and concerned. Pooja says one of the most important things a tutor can do is "make sure they [the students] feel that they're on the same level as you." Often times, people are daunted in the presence of tutors because "they assume that tutors aren't willing to help them the way they want to be helped." This includes not giving the answers when wanted. Pooja describes one of her best tutoring experiences as follows. "This guy just wanted me to give him the answers to his homework. I knew that this would be a waste of my time, so I patiently went through the material with him. Now, he comes in regularly for my help, rather than hurriedly coming in the day before an exam."

She also provides some tips for the amateur tutor in all of us: "Take the time to explain and re-explain. Don't assume that people will understand you, even after you ask them if they understand. Make sure you test them. And above all, don't feel superior to them." With tutors like Pooja ready to help you, why not come in and take advantage of free "Super Tutoring?"



## My International Honors Activity

by Harris Jatoi

It was the end of the fall 98 semester, and like many students, I was scrambling over what classes to take for spring. Eventually, I had it all figured out by the time I registered on that Monday. Just when I thought I took care of my registration dilemma, I realized I hadn't decided on an honors activity yet!

Since I had a pretty full course load for the spring semester, I thought about taking an honors seminar. Since it was late in the registration period, most of the seminars were already closed. Just as I was about to throw in the towel, I found one space available for HON 201, International News. And it even fit into my schedule. Perfect!

Nancy Cunov, an Assistant to the Dean at the Honors College teaches this seminar. It meets once a week, on Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The first day of class, Ms. Cunov introduced herself and talked about her role in the Honors College and why she chose to teach this class. Then we (25 of us) introduced ourselves and talked about any international links we have.

In order to keep up with current events around the world, we are required to subscribe to the New York Times; luckily we get a 50% student discount on our subscriptions! Each class period begins with a discussion about the important issues and events that occurred during the week. Each week, three students are required to make copies of recent newspaper articles and present their findings to the class. The rest of the class is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the issues being presented.

Additionally, everyone in the class is asked to focus on a particular region of the world and we are grouped together according to our geographic area. Students are asked to clip interesting articles about their region and save them. During some class periods, we get into our regional groups, discuss our findings, and then present them to the class.

(cont'd. on page 9)



This image was borrowed from the "Mohan's Carnatic Corner" website. For more information on Carnatic music, visit: <http://www.synflux.com.au/~mohan/music.html>

# A Different Musical Scene

by Tara Raghavan

Growing up in the United States, I have been exposed to many types of music. I can appreciate different forms of music, everything from Rap to Alternative. Perhaps due to my own musical background, my musical palate is eclectic. I have studied Western style (classical) violin for nine years. Additionally, for the last seven years, I have been learning Indian Carnatic classical music.

Unlike other classical forms of music, Carnatic music is one that is based almost totally on melodic line. Generally, the singer is the most important part of the Carnatic concert. His or her accompaniments are ordinarily the violin (initially borrowed from the western tradition)

and the *mridangam* (long drum) although *ghatams* (pot drums), flutes, and *veena* (string instrument) are also often used. As mentioned before, the singer is the main focus of the group. In a concert, the singer often starts off with a sort of humming that is based on the *ragam* (scale) of the song. After doing this solo rendition, he or she will generally start singing the song with a particular *talam* or beat. The songs themselves are usually devotional in nature, praising some Hindu lord or another.

The majority of Carnatic music hails from 18<sup>th</sup> Century South India. During this time, many great composers including Saint Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshithar lived in the area and produced some of the finest Carnatic classics that have ever been documented. These talented composers, along with many others in their time revolutionized Carnatic music, bringing it to the level at which it is sung today. By adding intriguing and poetic verses, while allowing for *gamakam* (vibration in the singing itself by quick jumps in tone), these composers are often referred to as the fathers of Carnatic music. Their exceptional music has given *rasikas* (Carnatic fans) a large collection of songs to hear and appreciate. This very different musical scene is one that influences other types of Indian music. From light classical to cinema (South Indian version of pop) music, Carnatic melodies seem prevalent and thus integral to other Indian musical forms.

I am fortunate that I have been able to study such music in depth. Unfortunately, I know that I will never be able to attain the level of musical perfection to which professionals rise. Professional musicians from India are the ones who bring such music to life, helping fans understand the music on a higher level. By studying Carnatic music, my fellow amateurs and I have made a great effort to promote the genre. I am fortunate to live in an American city with a large Indian population, as it has afforded me the opportunity to learn from an exemplary teacher. I also have been able to perform at many festivals and concerts, and consider myself privileged to be able to sing the music of my ancestors.

In a time when popular contemporary American singers like Madonna embraces Sanskrit and Shania Twain is seen sporting a Hindu dot, it is evident that interest in Indian culture is growing. Although I was born in the United States, I have grown up appreciating and reaching out to my roots. It has shaped my identity in many ways. The older I get, the more Indian culture pervades my life. Carnatic music is a part of me, like a specific style of cooking might be for others. I plan to continue singing, learning, and promoting this art form. This different musical scene, although not for everyone, is definitely something that is very unusual, which is why I believe that people should try to learn about it. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about Carnatic music, please e-mail me at [tragh@uic.edu](mailto:tragh@uic.edu).

# Medical School Interview: An Exciting Experience

by Ankush Goel

Last month I had the opportunity to interview for medical school. The whole interview process in itself was exciting, because that one day can affect what you will be doing for the next four years, if not the rest of your life. This was at first a fairly daunting concept, the idea that you are being analyzed and scrutinized to see whether or not you are qualified to be trained to be a doctor. The medical school must realize this, because as the day goes on, they really try to make each applicant feel comfortable.

My day began with a tour. A big part of the excitement I felt was seeing the medical school, hospital, and other facilities. One thing that becomes clear during the tour is that you are interviewing the medical school as much as they are interviewing you. You are obviously trying to sell yourself to them, but at the same time, they also are trying to sell themselves to you. I personally liked the way they try to impress you by showing you their newest and most exciting facilities.

The most important part of the day is obviously the interview. It is a good idea to be prepared to talk about yourself, but also be ready to ask intelligent questions about medical training and the medical school specifically. If you have questions specific for the university, it shows that you have done research and are serious about attending the school where you are interviewing. I went through two different types of interviews: the interviewers who are more conversational, and those interviewers who are all questions and business-like. I had an easier time with those people who talked *with* me rather than *to* me.

Overall, the interview process was exciting and only helped to reinforce my plans to become a doctor. After going through this interview process, I am looking forward to medical school even more now than before.

After considering the success and enthusiasm generated from this first year's trips, ASB is looking to increase the number of volunteer sites they travel to. Planning is already underway for two winter break trips, and as many as seven spring break sites next year. For those interested in joining or finding out more information about ASB, call 312-355-7752, or visit their web site at: [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/service/asb/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/service/asb/)

## Illinois Medical Schools Admissions Seminar

by Rajeev Garg



On February 10, the Society of Future Physicians attended the Illinois Medical School

Admissions Seminar at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook. Sponsored by all of the medical schools in Illinois, the seminar is dedicated to helping pre-medical students with the medical school application process.

The day began with a question and answer session with a group of medical students who attend each of the state's med schools. Students on this panel were from UIC, Northwestern, Rush, U of C, Midwestern College, Southern Illinois University, and Loyola. Each med student had something unique to say about his or her experience as undergraduates applying to medical school. The best part about this discussion was that the students gave their honest personal feelings about the whole process.

The next part of the seminar was the opportunity to attend various small group discussions that dealt with particular topics such as "Writing a Personal Statement," "The Interview Process," and "Financing Medical School." Everyone was able to attend two of these informative sessions.

Later, there was a chance to speak to a representative from each medical school. Each one was willing to answer questions and provide specific information about the school's program.

I highly recommend this seminar to any pre-medical student who is beginning the application process. It is well worth the time.

Our membership in the Honors College indicates to others that we take great pride in our work and strive to do well in academics. In addition to our intellect, many of us have also developed important social skills as well. What about the students who lack the mental capabilities and social skills that others have been so blessed with? Not only do many of these children have multiple physical disabilities, but they also lack the mental skills and cognitive functions that would allow them to do well in school. Until very recently, my view on Special Education students was that they were unfortunate. I learned over spring break that these children are not unfortunate, but actually, are quite exceptional.



This semester, I am taking Special Education 410, which is a required course for my major, Secondary Education in Chemistry. A requirement of the course is that we complete 30 hours of observation of special education children. Over spring break, I worked at both my high school and my grade school with children who were either physically disabled or had learning disabilities. What started out as a requirement turned out to be the experience of a lifetime, for these children taught me more than I could have ever imagined.

At the high school, I worked with children who had suffered from a traumatic brain injury at an early age, or had Down syndrome, autism, or some other rare genetic disorders which included Rett syndrome and Cornelia DeLange syndrome. I realized that these students don't concentrate as much on the structured learning that we are so familiar with, but rather on vocational skills to help them learn how to live on their own. They belong to organizations that focus on developing and nurturing these skills which will allow them to lead independent, full lives.

Like any other high school kids, these students also know how to have fun. Since I was there the week after the big Turnabout dance, all the students talked about was how much fun they'd had the previous weekend.

I also observed that these students are the most caring people I have ever met. They care for one another in ways that I have never seen before. If someone needed any help what so ever, there would never be a lack of volunteers who were more than willing to be there for a friend. What makes them extraordinary is that these students possess the greatest degree of optimism in their character, unlike any students I have ever known.

I went into the school to observe how the students were taught. In turn, I learned from what the students taught me. They taught me that they are no different than any of us. They want to go to dances, and work and study like all of us. These students are classified as "special education" because they need the special help academically, but the "special" in no way shape or form should label these children as unfortunate. I saw these students as rather exceptional... they know more about compassion, love, caring, and have more optimism than most people I've encountered.

What I learned from this experience is to never assume that you know more than someone else does. You may be surprised with what others can teach you, that is, if you leave your mind open to new ideas and new experiences. Take the time to notice, and to care, and to learn from those who appear to be different... but at heart, are just the same.

# Welcome to My Neighborhood

by Naila Mohsin

In almost every college student's life comes a time when he/she moves out of the house (or the dorms) and into the pseudo-real world. Whether it is with a group of close friends or with total strangers, the apartment life is an experience anticipated by most. It's a time of independence (both social and financial), freedom, and, of course, responsibility. Whether it be cooking your own food or cleaning your own washroom, the menial tasks of everyday life become exhilarating in their own realm. OK, maybe not. In any case, the transition state (i.e. apartment life) to complete independence is a time in which one experiences some of life's banalities for the first time and is introduced to the world on a different plateau. More importantly, it's a time when one meets new and interesting people (no, not like in one of those bartender commercials) and earns membership into a new community.

My rite of passage came at the beginning of last semester when I moved into an apartment on campus. Having enjoyed the amenities of dorm life and the sumptuousness of UIC dining for two years, I felt that it was time for me to move on. I found the apartment of my dreams and a good roommate, and I was ready for my adventure. With the first year of apartment life almost over, I can honestly say that it's been a completely different ball game from dorm life. Apart from the splendid trivialities of the "real world", I'd have to say the most memorable part of my apartment experience would have to be my encounters with the "interesting" people who coexist in my microcosm. Fellow Honors College members, I'd like to introduce you to the people in my neighborhood.

Let me begin by setting the scene. I live in a hospital-turned-condominium complex; what used to be Cabrini Hospital has been transformed into 100 privately owned units. Although all units are privately owned, a significant number are open to renters (by the private owners). The residents of the building are mostly yuppies (i.e. Young Urban Professionals) and senior citizens.

With this in mind, let me begin my exposé with a general discussion of the yuppies. Most people in this group are a few years out of college, working downtown, are newly married, and driving really nice cars. This group seems to be the least cordial and the most anal. With this being their first significant investment, they feel justified in taking up two parking spots. However, if someone else's car were to trespass an inch over the line, he/she should expect a nasty letter tucked neatly under the windshield wiper the next morning.

Aside from the acrimonious letters found on windshields or posted on the bulletin board, the only other contact with fellow residents is in the lobby, corridors, or at the trash chute, which is my personal favorite. Every so often I bump into one of my lovely neighbors at the trash chute. Unlike her exclusive, yuppie counterpart, she is a jovial and affable woman around the age of 60. Whenever we meet, she is always kind enough to give me an accurate update on the affairs of our neighbors, especially the people who live across the hall from the trash chute...yes, the notorious, unwed couple who live together and often fight about rent - she owns the place! Sometimes we are inopportunistly (though very coincidentally, mind you) throwing out our trash when they have their spats.

Despite the general conventional population, we have our share of eccentric people. The first person who springs to my mind is the infamous lady who owns two pigs as pets. That's right, pigs as pets - in the heart of the city. She is often seen in the park or in the lobby walking with her two fat pigs. I've never spoken to her (nor has my trash chute friend), but a few of my visiting friends who happened to be lucky enough to share an elevator ride with her have asked her about the pigs. Apparently, the pigs have their own room and are good pets, despite the fact that they "get into things"...whatever that's supposed to mean.

And last, but definitely not least, are the dogs. It seems like everybody in the building owns at least one. It seems to have been a prerequisite of sorts that I was oblivious of when I moved in. There is a wide array of breeds, from benign-looking poodles to ferocious pit bulls to enormous, unidentifiable mutants that seem as big as horses. Unfortunately for me, I am petrified of dogs. So the occasional encounter with a canine in the corridor is not an enjoyable experience, especially since I am trying to climb the walls most of the time to avoid contact with them. Moreover, our elevators always smell like dogs, which is not very pleasant. No offense to animal lovers, but sometimes it seems like the building is more of a dog motel than it is human residence.

So, there you have it folks...the people in my neighborhood. As difficult, gossipy, or eccentric as they may seem, my neighbors add a certain character to the community that makes it all the more charming and interesting.

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## Honors Activity (cont'd. from page 6)

We have also had guest speakers who come in and talk about a particular international subject. The head of the German department spoke to us about Germany and its new administration; Economics Professor Lawrence Officer told us about the Euro; and Dean Kaba discussed Africa with us.

The requirements for getting a satisfactory grade in the class include doing a presentation, writing a brief summary of the class at ~~the end of the semester, and regular class attendance.~~ **Additionally, you must be at least a sophomore** (2<sup>nd</sup> year student) to enroll in an HON 201 section, and you may take no more than four seminars as an Honors College student.

International News will probably be offered again in the spring of 2000. However, there are at least 12 interesting HON 201 seminars offered for this fall. I encourage all of you who are not sure what to do for your honors activity, or want to try something different, to look into this great opportunity.

## Restaurant Reviews

by Zishan Khan

Finally, I get the chance to fulfill one of my life-long dreams: critiquing restaurants, like one of my all-time idols, Channel Seven News 'Food Dude' James Ward. I have three restaurants to tell you about: Rosebud on Rush, The California Pizza Kitchen, and The Bubba Gump Shrimp Company. My ratings are based on a 4 star scale, with 4 being the best and a 1 star rating is a place to avoid at all costs.



*Rosebud on Rush* (720 N. Rush Street) offers a large variety of pasta dishes and surf & turf options as well as scrumptious appetizers and delicious desserts. If you like chocolate, the Chocolate Tower of Power is great, as it is chocolate flourless cake surrounded in raspberry sauce. What I was most impressed with was the amount of pasta they served you. The servings are enormous! You'll be eating your leftover dinner for days after you bag it. The environment is romantic, yet casual - Dockers and a button down shirt would be fine. Also, you should bring either a lot a cash or plastic since it is fairly pricey. Dinner for two (including an appetizer and dessert, plus the tip and tax) ran around eighty dollars. And, if you are lucky, you might be able to see a few Hollywood stars as they are noted to stop by. Waits can be long, so make reservations before you go. If you do not want to go all the way to Rush Street, you can visit the original Rosebud in our neighborhood at Taylor & Laflin. **Rosebud on Rush: 3.25 stars**

At *The California Pizza Kitchen*, you can find pizza topped with everything from tandoori chicken to huge portobello mushrooms. If you are tired of the same old pizza toppings and crave something different, this is the place to go. Pizza is not the only thing on the menu. An eclectic selection of pasta, sandwiches, and salads is available as well. If you pasta lovers are looking for a new twist, I highly recommend the spicy Kung-Pao spaghetti. The prices are reasonable; lunch for two should run you from twenty to thirty dollars. Attire is casual and if you love your stonewashed jeans, go ahead and wear 'em. Service is fast and friendly. There are two locations in Chicago: 414 N. Orleans Street and Water Tower Place on the seventh floor. **California Pizza Kitchen: 3 stars**

Lastly, the *Bubba Gump Shrimp Company* is on Navy Pier. Capitalizing on the popularity of the "Forrest Gump" movie, this place is very casual; t-shirts & jeans or even shorts are fine here. Tourists and suburbanites seem to be the target audience. All manner of "Forrest Gump" merchandise is sold here, too. The place has a "down-home" southern kind of feel to it, laid back, yet lively at the same time. However, the food is not the greatest and leaves a lot to be desired. The only dish I would recommend would be the shrimp and spaghetti. Other than that, most other menu items (scallops and fish) were bland and nothing special. The desserts are probably the best items on the menu. In terms of price, for the quality of food, you are probably paying too much, as lunch for two can be from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars.

**Bubba Gump Shrimp Company: 2 stars**

## The Top Ten Signs That Tell You You're Ready to Graduate

by Becky Chan

This column is dedicated to my friends, my fellow graduates in the class of 1999, and to the readers that have enjoyed my articles for the past 2 years. Next year, I will be attending medical school on the west side of campus. Thanks again for the memories. Best of luck to everyone in the future!

The Top 10 Signs You're Ready to Graduate are when you:

1. Remember the cuisine of Inner Circle's Hook, Line and Sinker.
2. Remember the concrete overpasses in SEL that resembled the ones used in the movie, Candyman.
3. Feel nostalgic when you see University Hall.
4. Can recite UIC's telephone registration system.
5. Can figure out how the sculptures on campus relate to the University.
6. Realize in lecture that you've taken all of the classes among everyone around you.
7. Realize that you've been in the same classroom for years.
8. Can suspend your disbelief in the writings carved into the tables and desks of the Main Library.
9. Can unconsciously turn in your Honors College forms at the beginning and end of each semester.
10. Can navigate successfully around BSB and/or SES.

## Mexican Vacation

by Madhuri Ventrapagada

Over spring break, my family and I went to Mexico, to Puerto Vallarta to be exact. It was such a fun experience that I decided to write about it to tell others of the beauty of Mexico. One of the most striking aspects was how nice everybody was; another was the amount of activities, from tours to parasailing that are available. One tour I went on was to an island in the Pacific Ocean; I saw whales, schools of dolphins and many different types of tropical fish as I snorkeled. Another activity I pursued was parasailing: floating hundreds of feet above Puerto Vallarta, I marveled at the beauty of the beaches and landscape.



Although many people have a misconception that Mexico is dirt cheap, it is not. But it is not extremely expensive either, and going to a nice restaurant is not going to make that big of a hole in your pocket. Out of the different restaurants we went to for dinner, there was not one that was not good. One of my favorite foods is seafood of which there is plenty in Puerto Vallarta.

So if you are looking for a place to relax, catch a few rays but also have some fun experiences, I highly recommend Mexico.