

The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

September 1999

Important Upcoming Dates

Wed., Sept. 15	Society of Future Physicians Induction Ceremony & Meeting
Sun., Sept. 26	AIDS Walk
Fri., Oct. 1	Flaherty Study Abroad Scholarship Deadline
Mon., Oct. 4	Fall 1999 Semester Tuition Due

A Message from the Dean

To the students who are returning to the campus and to the new ones, greetings and welcome to the Honors College for a new academic year. Together we must make it enriching, exciting and enjoyable in terms of learning, service and "cohabitation."

The College has begun new educational initiatives that will broaden your academic horizons. Learn more about the Oxford program and other prestigious fellowship competitions aimed at challenging you for greater achievements. Take advantage of these opportunities.

We spend many hours every day in the College. It is incumbent upon all of us to do what is right for us and to respect the rights of others. College experience prepares for life with seriousness and civility. I count on everyone for abiding by these values of responsibility. Let us make our Honors College the home for excellence, success and congeniality.

The College makes it possible for you to interact with a diverse body of students. I urge you to communicate and work with one another in the lounge and other facilities. As members of the same honors community, you are invited to join others at the HCAB Socials on Fridays. Welcome! I look forward to getting acquainted with you.

Lansiné Kaba
Dean

New Student Day a Success!

After the many hours the Honors College Advisory Board spent working on New Student Day, and after all the tables and chairs were put away, it was agreed that New Student Day had been a success.

"Fun, food, and games!" was one of the many encouragements used on new students when they received calls from various Honors College Advisory Board members. And indeed, they did not lie. The new students filtered in starting at eight-thirty in the morning. They were given name tags, and also some other name tags which were attached to their backs, saying things such as "Hillary Clinton," and "Bart Simpson."

One of the "get-to-know-each-other" games was to guess who they were by asking only "yes" and "no" questions. They walked into the Illinois Room, which was decorated with bright streamers and neon signs, and of course, there was lots of food.

(cont'd. on page 3)

Inside this Issue:

- * Meet the Honors College Staff
- * See photos from New Student Day!
- * Steppenwolf Theatre review



Red Shoes is Looking for a Few Good Editors!

Red Shoes Revived, a literary arts magazine sponsored by the Honors College, is dedicated exclusively to promoting the artistic achievements of talented undergraduates. Join the editorial board now to apply your creative talent, enjoy meaningful collaboration with other students, and gain valuable editing experience. The time commitment is not heavy, and the experience is rewarding. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to sharpen your networking skills and contribute as a student leader. So join today.

For more information, contact: Joseph Tarshish at tarshj@aol.com Be sure to visit our web page at: <http://khayman.hc.uic.edu/RedShoes/redshoes.htm>



Psi Chi Announces New Officers

Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, would like to announce the UIC chapter's new officers:

- President: Michael Zalanka
- Vice President: Danielle Brandstetter
- Treasurer: Julie Miller
- Secretary: Heather Benjamin
- Executive officer of History: Dimitri Perivoliotis
- Executive officer of Publicity: Beth Grisa
- Executive officer of membership: Jibby Chittet
- Executive officer of internet communications: Dimitri Perivoliotis
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Linda Skitka



To become a Psi Chi member you must major or minor in psychology, have an overall GPA of 4.25, and a psychology GPA of 4.40.

Keep a look out for exciting events hosted by Psi Chi throughout the current school year. For more information e-mail: mzalan1@uic.edu or dbrand2@uic.edu and check out Psi Chi's webpage at www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/hon/psichi/



New Life

A new opportunity for you to expand your horizons is in store for you this year. There is a new service-oriented organization called New Life that guarantees to make you think about the way you carry yourself from day to day and make you aware of your individuality.

The mission of the club is two-fold: first, members will watch videos and engage in discussion related to improving their daily lives. Secondly, members will come together to aid the hungry and homeless in the Chicago area and around the nation.

The teachings of the club will be based mostly on Dada J.P. Vaswani, a world-renowned spiritual leader who has given speeches to the United Nations and thousands of executives around the globe. His talks touch millions of lives as he discusses matters such as "Why be Anxious," "Burn Anger before Anger Burns You," "8 Steps to Inner Peace," and "Therapy of Cheerfulness."

Best of all, this ideology doesn't focus in on any one religion. It takes a universal standpoint that can help all people - including YOU!

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Vijay at 312-355-8386 or vkhan1@uic.edu

New Student Day

(cont'd. from first page)

Around nine-thirty, Dean Lansiné Kaba formally welcomed the students, and was followed by Associate Dean Janet Madia, and HCAB co-presidents, Rajeev Garg and Vandana Khungar. Each group of students was given a group of ten words, out of which they had to make a story. HCAB took those same words and transformed them into a skit based on the movie *Austin Powers*. The stage was filled with students crying out over the loss of their favorite underwear makers, Vandana Khungar's bright neon green suit blinded the guests, and the new students were charged with the job of finding the "real" Austin Powers.

The students spread out over campus, in search of clues, which led them to various academic buildings, which in turn led them to more clues. Finally, one group reached the Honors College, where they found the "real" Austin Powers.

Following the scavenger hunt, students went to the lawn in front of SEO, drawn by the smell of Fontano's subs and other goodies. A volleyball net was unsuccessfully put up (*and we won't mention by whom!*) and students walked among the tables, sitting, eating, and talking.

All in all, they had the chance to make many new acquaintances, make fun of the HCAB members, and eat plenty of good food, making it a successful day.



The Ampersand Wants YOU!

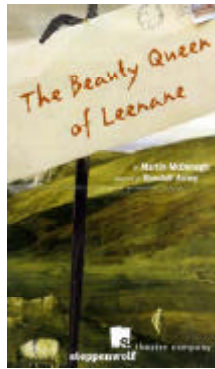
What do YOU want to see in future issues of The Ampersand? We are striving to have future issues of the newsletter reflect interests of ALL Honors College students. So please let us hear from you; we need your input!

Contact Jennifer Kosco at jkosco@uic.edu or Deepak Mitra at dmitra1@uic.edu

Steppenwolf Theater - A Chicago Powerhouse of Talent

by Bojan Petrovic

Recently, some friends and I paid a visit to the Steppenwolf Theater on North Halsted. We saw "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" by Martin McDonagh. A dark comedy about the deteriorating relationship between a mother and daughter in Leenane, Ireland, "Beauty Queen" had us laughing one moment and reeling in horror the next. Since Steppenwolf has long been known as a powerhouse of talent, we were not at all surprised at the excellent acting. However, I believe we were all a little impressed by the degree to which we became engaged with the show. It testified to the intimate nature of theater as a performing arts medium and the reason that many top actors make films for the paycheck and act on stage to fill their passion.



Steppenwolf is a top-notch theater company that UIC students should take note of. A fifteen-minute ride from UIC on the #8 CTA bus, the theater is an intimate 500-seat venue. There really isn't a bad seat in the house. Furthermore, students can take advantage of Steppenwolf's rush ticket pricing. If you show up at the box office one hour before the show, they will discount any unsold seats to half-price. Since subscribers can return their tickets any time before the show, rush ticket purchasers stand a chance to get excellent seats for \$17.50 (regular price = \$35). We actually got an even better deal when we saw "Beauty Queen" - we got box seats right next to the stage for \$10 each!

Pricing isn't the only thing that's great about Steppenwolf. The acting and directing are first-rate. Calling itself an actor's theater, Steppenwolf claims that it has the freedom "to try to discover the truth and passionately express the human condition." Perhaps this is what keeps attracting such notables as John Mahoney (*Frasier*), John Malkovich (*Dangerous Liaisons*), Laurie Metcalf (the star of an earlier production of "Beauty Queen" and *Roseanne*), and Gary Sinise (*Forrest Gump*) to return to Steppenwolf to exercise their acting chops.

"Beauty Queen" will be followed this season by "Sideman" featuring Rondi Reed, "Hysteria" directed by John Malkovich, "Closer" by Patrick Marber, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" featuring Gary Sinise and Amy Morton, and "Valparaiso" by Don DeLillo. A detailed listing is available at <http://www.steppenwolf.org>

President Clinton recognized Steppenwolf last November when he awarded it the National Medal of Arts and noted that the theater "stages edgy, experimental productions that still manage to attract mainstream audiences. It is an ensemble that shuns the star system, yet it has launched its fair share of stars. That those stars regularly skip movie roles to act in Steppenwolf plays speaks volumes about the magic of this theater." I agree.

Indian Students Association Plans a Busy Year

by Sagun Desai

ISA - the Indian Students Association, is one of the many cultural groups here at UIC. With the beginning of the new school year, ISA members are busy planning events and activities. In addition to the usual workshops, athletic competitions, and other events, ISA is looking to put more emphasis on cultural events. These include new workshops, a Diwali celebration, and possibly a Holi celebration. ISA hopes to promote a greater cultural awareness within the Indian community itself, but also to attract a more diverse population and expose it to Indian culture.

As ISA President **Shrujal Baxi** says, "We see bits and pieces of Indian traditions already immersed into our culture here. ISA will allow the Indian students to come together and assemble these bits and pieces into a more complete understanding of the culture for all."

In order to promote and follow through on these thoughts, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation co-chairs **Vidhya Viswanathan** and **Priya Chandramali** are working hard to implement a South Asian Studies program here at UIC. They hope to accomplish their goals of starting such a program through guest speakers, petitions, and a letter writing campaign. Vidhya is enthusiastic about the possibility starting such a program, and stated, "Help, support, and ideas for implementing this program are always welcome." (Anyone interested in being part of this committee should contact one of the chairs at vviswa1@uic.edu or pchand1@uic.edu)

The rest of the board expresses an attitude similar to Vidhya's. It encourages the active involvement of all its members. For those who are new to ISA, in addition to the previously mentioned Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, there are four committees to become involved in: cultural, social, publicity, and sports.

Following is a rough timeline of the proposed ISA activities planned for the school year.

September: Membership Drive, Social, Cooking Workshop;

October: Indian Formal, Mehndi Workshop, Cricket Workshop, Basketball/Pool Tournaments;

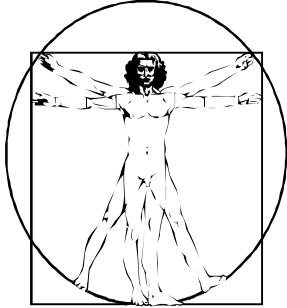
November: Raas/Garba/Bhangra Night (Diwali Night);

March: India Night (Cultural Show).

More information can be found on the ISA webpage at <http://isa.pages.uic.edu>

Society of Future Physicians

by Nirali Shah



Upcoming Society of Future Physicians Events

- SFP Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

5:00 PM Cornucopia Room, CCC

- SFP General Body Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Following the Induction Ceremony

(APPROX. 6:30 PM)

- AIDS WALK

Sunday, September 26, 1999

- Other events to watch for:

Video: COMA

Medical Ethics Discussion

Book Discussion: Learning to Play God

As the new school year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you all to The Society of Future Physicians.

The Society of Future Physicians is a pre-medical organization sponsored by the Honors College. Our goal is to encourage, educate and expose the members to the discipline of medicine.

As this year's President of the Society, I, along with five other SFP members (Rajeev Garg-Vice President, Boyan Petrovic-Treasurer, Renuka Malik-Secretary, Shimoni Kadakia-Volunteering Chair, and Jeff Meglin-Activities Chair) comprise the SFP Executive Board. Our goals are to plan as many medically oriented activities so that we can all learn more about the world of medicine.

Our theme this year of "What is Medicine and Where do You Fit?" is meant to emphasize two major facts. First, that we all share common aspirations and wish to learn more about the world of medicine, and that within that world, we all have a place, whether it is as future physicians, patients or families of patients. Through activities such as medical ethics discussions, volunteering opportunities, surgery viewings, CPR Certification classes, medical school tours, and other events, we hope to provide members with as many opportunities to learn about the world of medicine as possible.

For any questions or concerns please email: sfp@listserv.uic.edu

For more information, check out our website: http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/prof/sfp



Be a REAL Honors College Member!

by Jessica Wilson

The sandwiches at the Honors College Alumni Picnic were as big as your face, and they tasted delicious with chips and root beer. The activities there, ranging from socializing to frisbee tossing, were great fun. Were you there?

One of the special benefits of being a member of the Honors College is the opportunity to come together for a great time. Instead of wasting the privilege of membership that a vast majority of UIC students don't have, take advantage of the resources and events that the Honors College makes available to you—not just the computer lab and once-every-other-semester visits to an advisor. Join in on the weekend picnics, baseball games, the socials, and the many other events that we all hear about via email and/or a friend.

Sure, it's easy to be of "Honors College" status...but the real fun comes in being a *real* member!

Preparing for the Future: Looking to Life After Undergraduate Education

by Tara Mythri Raghavan

Whether this is your first or last year at UIC, you should be thinking about what you want to do in the future. Whether you dream of becoming a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a physicist, or a taco stand owner, you need to come up with a clear plan to make your dream come true.

This does not mean that you have to stick with the plan that you started out with when you entered school. For example, as a freshman, I already had my life planned out. I was going to become a criminal lawyer who put the bad guys behind bars in dramatic courtroom scenes. (*Perhaps I had watched too many episodes of L.A. Law!*) Today, though my dream still lies in law, my preferences have shifted to environmental law rather than criminal. My plan has altered but I still have continued to follow through on my dreams. Here are a few tips on how to follow through on yours.

Decide what your lifelong dream is. For some people, this is a piece of cake. Perhaps you are one of those people who decided at age six that you wanted to be a reporter for the *New York Times*. However, others are not so lucky. Many students come to college without a clue as to what they want to do when they grow up. This is okay! A friend of mine, a baffled junior, is still debating whether she should go to medical school or law school. Your first two years of college are a time when you can square away your career goal. By the end of this period, it is generally expected that a major is declared and you are on your way to the glamorous career that you dream of during those extra long general chemistry lectures. Once you decide on a specific career, you are already on your way to living it.

Figure out what type of education you need to achieve your dream. After deciding on your career goal, you have to find out what you have to do to achieve it. This may be medical school, law school, an internship for someone who wants to enter the workplace right after getting a Bachelor's degree, or graduate school for those interested in pursuing a particular field. Without figuring out the extra education that you may need to pursue your career, there is no chance of fulfilling your dreams.

(cont'd. on page 8)

New Student Day 1999 Photos

More photos can be found on the Honors College web page:
<http://www.hc.uic.edu>



How many Honors students does it take to put up a volleyball net? Anisha Shetty, Himanshi Patel, and Vidhya Viswanathan demonstrate how it's NOT done!



These new students already look at home at their new Honors College home in Burnham Hall!



Lee Drahos shows new students how to relax in the computer lab!



David Limsui greets Nirali Shah amidst the sandwich line!

Meet the REAL Honors College Staff!

by Mona Oberoi

As students, it is often difficult for us to imagine Honors College staff members engaging in activities outside of the academic arena. We imagine them living in Burnham Hall 24 hours a day without any source of outside entertainment. Many of us fail to realize that they are real people with hobbies and talents. Most of us would be surprised to see Dean Madia jogging on a trail along side us or running into Randi Zillmer at a salsa club. Following is a personal interview with several Honors College staff members, which should allow us to get to know the “fun” side of them. Maybe after reading this, we’ll realize that they actually have a life outside the Honors College, too!



Name: Janet Madia

Title: Associate Dean for Student & Alumni Affairs

Are you married/ Do you have any children? Yes/No

Any siblings? 2 brothers, 1 sister

Any family pets? 2 dogs - Missy (shepherd mix) and Chloe (golden retriever)

2 birds - Pepino (jenday conure, type of parrot) and Spike (parakeet)

Do you have any childhood nicknames? None that I will reveal!

What college did you attend? What was your major?

St. Mary’s College for 2 years; graduated from UIC with degree in Spanish. Received Masters in Spanish Literature from UIC as well.

What 3 words would best describe your personality and work ethic in college?

Energetic, unflappable, determined

Do you have any unusual talents?

Flair for languages – I’ve studied Spanish, Italian, French, and German.

Any Hobbies? Reading, cooking, running, music, shell creating

What is the most interesting place you have traveled to? Hard to say “most,” but I have recently visited the island of Dominica in the Caribbean, a great place for ecotourism.

Please list your favorite:

Type of Music/Band – Jazz - many favorites

Movie – Wizard of Oz

Book/Author – The House of Spirits/ Isabel Allende

Food – Lobster

Sports Team – (former) Bulls

Ice-cream – Vanilla

The one thing that worries me the most about the future is: Another Depression after Y2K ruins the economy.

The one thing I look forward to in the future is: Finding out I’m wrong about Y2K!



Name: Jeff Lewis

Title: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Are you married/ Do you have any children? No/No

Any siblings? Yes

Any family pets? Three cats

Do you have any childhood nicknames? No

What college did you attend? What was your major?

Baylor University, BS in Mathematics; Rice University, Ph.D. in Mathematics

What 2 words would best describe your personality and work ethic in college? Organized, nerd

Do you have any unusual talents?

Public address announcing at sporting events (hockey, football, basketball, figure skating)

Any Hobbies? Cycling

What is the most interesting place you have traveled to? Italy (regular journeys for over 20 years)

Please list your favorite:

Book/Author – Scott Turow, Garrison Keilor

Food – Pasta

Sports Team – UIC Flames



The Real H.C. Staff

Name: Nancy Cunov

Title: Assistant to the Dean

Are you married/ Do you have any children? Yes, no

Any siblings? 2 sisters (In Colorado and California)

Any family pets? An elephant collection (not alive)

Do you have any childhood nicknames? Stramboli (my maiden name is Strama, friends "Italian-ized" it)

What college did you attend? What was your major?

BA at University of Northern Colorado (Education and French)

MA at University of Illinois at Chicago (French)

What 3 words would best describe your personality and work ethic in college?

Only 2: Work Hard!

Do you have any unusual talents?

Geography in Trivial Pursuit

Any Hobbies? Traveling, cooking, movies, bike-riding

What is the most interesting place you have traveled to? Venice, a 1000-year-old city built on canals

Please list your favorite:

Type of Music/Band – Classical (really!), but I went to high school with the Ides of March!

Movie – most excellent: "Schindler's List," but I'm a movie buff, and there are many.

Book/Author – (American) F. Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby

(French) Marcel Proust – Remembrance of Things Past

Food – Summer BLTs, a great burger, and anything Italian!

Sports Team – the 1972 U.S. Olympic team in Munich (I was there)

Ice-cream – Love it and make it!

The one thing that worries me the most about the future is: The growth in guns and violence in the U.S., especially among young people.

The one thing I look forward to in the future is: Visiting as many interesting cities and countries as possible!



Preparing for the Future

(cont'd. from page 5)

Find out where you want to go to get such an education. For many students, leaving UIC might be a good choice. For others, UIC might provide the best education for a certain career. After my sophomore year, I knew that I wanted to pursue law, so I started looking into various law schools. Some of my friends went to the Cooperative Education offices in their respective colleges in order to find an internship. Get on the Internet, talk to people, and check out the local library, which may be able to provide information about the different educational options. The options are endless, but unless you research them, your dream has no chance of survival.

Take the necessary prerequisites for the schools. You may want to be a pharmacist and you may want to go to Midwestern University, but unless you take the PCAT you have no chance of getting into Midwestern. The next step in the path to living your dream is to see what you need to do to get your education. People interested in medicine should take the MCAT during their junior year. On the other hand, the LSAT for law school can be taken as late as December of a person's senior year. Other schools may require the GRE or GMAT for admission; pay attention to those deadlines as well. Those entering into the workforce right out of UIC should have internships under their belt before starting their senior year.

Apply! Apply! Apply! After finishing your prerequisites, you should apply for whatever education you are interested in pursuing. Keep in mind this may include recommendations, application fees, personal statements and other such entities. Therefore, it is advisable that you keep a timeline to finish all your tasks. It will make your life easier. Be mindful of financial aid (fill out a FAFSA) and be realistic about what you can afford. Once you have your applications done, you are well on your way to meeting your goal.

After applying, do not fret. Since you have already prepared yourself for a good future you have nothing to worry about. Concentrate on other things. The acceptance letters and job offers will appear if you don't fret about it. The future will only come too soon, so relax.

These tips for the future are meant to be helpful for all students. Similar information can be found in Graduate prep books and online graduate school advice sites. If you have a particular goal in mind and you have no idea on what it takes to meet it, talk to an Honors College advisor for a clearer picture.

Come On, Melt a Little!

by Vidhya Viswanathan

Many say that the education received at a university occurs not only in the classroom but also in everyday life. Those with more liberal viewpoints might even insist that the “real world” education gained from attending college often supercedes the acquisition of book knowledge. The maturation process that one goes through is not noticeable to that person unless there is some event that triggers the knowledge of a difference.

For example, this summer, I discovered that I was looking at the world through very different eyes, through the eyes of a mature person who not only sees something, but also understands it. I had a chance to perceive an aspect of society that a few years ago I would not have even noticed, and with this discovery came the need for me to articulate what I have learned to others who will begin or continue their college careers. The lesson that I was able to comprehend began with a road trip and ended at school.



This summer, I took a road trip to New York with my father. We took in the sights of the Big Apple, but the most important attraction was outside of the city itself: the Statue of Liberty. As an immigrant family, my family regards this symbol of freedom with great reverence. As I toured the island, I saw many different ethnic groups being represented. What I discerned, however, was something different. I recognized a society in which one’s differences are his greatest assets, a society that welcomes heterogeneity. Everyone visiting the Statue was paying homage, in a way, to America. Although they came from different backgrounds, for those few hours, they were distinctly American. They were part of the proverbial melting pot. I noticed how important the moment was, and I hoped that I would see the interaction between different cultures again. But considering the self-segregation that occurs between cultures in cosmopolitan areas, I feared that I would never have an occasion to witness what I saw that day at the Statue of Liberty.

Just before this semester started, I was fortunate enough to see a Bharat Natyam troupe perform at the Harold Washington Library. Bharat Natyam is a traditional Indian dance form, and very few other cultures have knowledge about the dance form. Before the actual performance, I began to notice who was in the audience. Once again, there was a “melting pot” of cultures represented. In the dance troupe itself, two Caucasian women performed along with their Indian counterparts. Everyone watching and performing was doing something traditionally Indian. A year ago, before I began my freshman year here at UIC, I suppose I would not have noticed the significance or the correlation between these two incidents.

What I learned was that different cultures need not participate in something typically “American” to come together. I, as an Indian living in such a diverse campus, should take the time to participate in something that is traditionally “Thai” or “Korean” or “Polish.” In order to be a true melting pot, we must each immerse ourselves in other cultures, take some of their characteristics as they obtain some of ours.

So, as the year begins, before classes become too hectic or personal lives become too complicated, I propose that we all take the time to explore something that might initially make us feel like a fish out of water. We have all identified ourselves at different times as American; maybe it is time to define ourselves in terms of other cultures. Let’s all “melt a little.” For example, right now, I’m going to get myself some kim chi. Nothing like cabbage to make you feel better. Try it. You might like it.



Enjoying lunch at New Student Day on 8/21