

## Spring Into Horoscopes

By Sameera Guttikonda and Nisha Khadiwala

**Aries:** April is a month of accomplishment for you, so don't be afraid to take a risk at school or at work because it will surely pay off. You should also consider making a big gesture in your relationship. It is time to move forward. With your new high levels of confidence, consider throwing a party at the end of the month, it will be the social event of the year!

**Taurus:** The past few weeks have been expensive, to say the least. Now that you are crunched for cash, consider cutting back on your daily expenses. Also, consider getting back on your fitness regimen, you've been slacking a bit lately, and it will really perk you up to get some exercise. You'll be feeling so fit and healthy that you should make sure to go out and be social. Show off your fit new bod!

**Gemini:** Your life had been pretty uneventful lately, and a lovely romantic surprise will change that up very soon. You will also find yourself having newfound enthusiasm. Use this to finally complete that project you've been putting off. Make healthy choices this month, you'll be shocked at how different you feel in a short period of time.

**Cancer:** Feeling stuck in a rut? Stick through the boredom, though, and you'll finally see the pace speed up a bit. Towards the middle of the month, everything in your life, professional and otherwise, will go at warp speed. All of this sudden accomplishment will put you in the mood to party. Go with the flow, and indulge in all that life has to offer.

**Leo:** You've been feeling pretty settled lately, so mix it up and plan a trip to somewhere you've never been. This is also a good for your love life, so take advantage of a sly phone call or a series of promising emails. Be prepared to have some good news at school or work: you've been working hard, and the payoff is now.

**Virgo:** This is a great time for you to meet new people! Either platonic or otherwise, you'll find yourself developing some great relationships. This is also a turning point for your financial situation. You've

been strapped for cash lately, so take any offer that could lead to some money in the bank. Now is also the time to talk about big changes in your relationship. Take charge! It's your life!

**Libra:** Have you been in the running for a serious reward or honor? Sit tight, because it will come through later than you think. Still, keep the option of a new job or school open, keep practicing those interview skills! If you have any financial obligations, work out a plan to find a solution. If you have just left a relationship, don't stress. Your life will be so full, you won't have time to lament.

**Scorpio:** If you've been feeling awkward with your relationship, its time to either work things out or break it off. Either way, make sure to be more social and you'll be surprised at the fun times you'll have. You'll also be a little forgetful this month. Make lists to stay organized.

**Sagittarius:** With all the pressures in your life, you may desire to make socializing one of your top priorities. However, make sure you pay enough attention to work or school because you are being closely watched. Make sure that you take advantage of all the new friendships that are blooming as you work. They will prove to be dependable and fun!

**Capricorn:** This is a great time to party! You've worked hard, so take the time out celebrate. A new educational opportunity will arise, so take advantage of it and show all your peers what you are really mad of. Amongst all your hard work, you'll encounter newfound loyalty with someone new and promising.

**Aquarius:** April will be a month of communication for you. You'll be a social butterfly, and also checking out new options at school. Make sure you keep yourself organized because a quick lapse of memory can ruin what you have worked for. You might also find yourself trapped in a triangle, as you are definitely hot property.

**Pisces:** You need to be careful with your cash! Although the sales will seem to be calling your name, stay on track because midmonth, your life will start to come together. You may also find yourself becoming very popular, but take it with a grain of salt, because it could end badly. Don't rush; keep a schedule, stick with it, and everything will settle itself.

# The Ampersand &

## UIC Honors College

### April 2006

**UIC Mock Trial Team Ranks Nationally!** By Karim Rajabali

The nationally ranked UIC Mock Trial team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in a 24 team division at the American Mock Trial Association National Tournament that was held on March 17 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in Minneapolis Minnesota. This national tournament was one of two Silver National Tournaments, from which the top teams advance to the National Championship Tournament held in Des Moines, Iowa. The tournament consisted of about 42 teams and UIC missed a bid to the Championship Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa as only the top three teams advance further. The team earned a record of 5-2-1, (5 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie) falling just behind the University of Madison, Wisconsin who finished with a 6-2 record. Throughout the tournament, UIC faced St. Ambrose, Kenyon College, Washington University, and The University of Alabama.

UIC placed higher than any other team out of the Joliet regional where it received its bid. These teams included The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Loyola, and Lewis University. This was an especially significant accomplishment considering that every member of the team other than co-captains Karim Rajabali and Alana Zusis were first year members. Once again reaffirming its position in AMTA as a powerhouse, returning members are looking forward to competing next year for a bid to the Championship Tournament and will be looking for new recruits early next fall.

Honors College student, Karim Rajabali, team co-captain was once again recognized individually for his performance as a defense attorney and received an Outstanding Attorney Award.

In this year's case, the *State vs. Tyler Perry*, the defendant, Tyler Perry, is accused of kidnapping a thirteen-year old child for a ransom of \$250,000.

(Cont'd. on page 18)



UIC Mock Trial Team - Congratulations!

## **A Week of Culture: Beta Week**

By Zina Alkafaji

Did you detect a feeling of academic and cultural unity in the air on campus recently? If so, you can thank the sponsors of Beta Week, namely the members of the Latino-based social fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta.

Beta week 2006 was organized with the intention of applying the organization's vision to a week of various events and programs. The fraternity aims to cultivate campus unity through academic, professional, social, and cultural exchanges in order to better the community while enhancing mutual understanding. The groups' five fundamental principles: cultural awareness, scholarship, philanthropy, leadership, and brotherhood were weaved into the program so that each day represented a different virtue.

The week kicked off on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> with a spicy night of free salsa dance lessons, playing up the importance of cultural awareness. On Tuesday, visiting high school students were told about a variety of options available to them at the college level, emphasizing scholarship. The next day' focus concerned building bridges between the Asian and Latino communities and honoring philanthropy. A film portraying the poverty, greed, danger, and crime that ran rampant in Brazilian slums during the 60's and even persists during today's times was shown. By taking such social issues seriously, leadership was displayed. Lastly, on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the members of Sigma Lambda Beta met in alliance with other nationwide members of the fraternity, exercising bonding and brotherhood, during a group trip to Iowa City.

In conjunction with a variety of other student organizations, Beta week managed to gain a wide audience in which representation of several ethnic

and cultural groups was achieved. Thanks to the time and efforts of Uriel Sandoval and all the members of Sigma Lambda Beta, the UIC campus is one step closer to attaining a healthy and diversified attitude.

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## **The Thirteenth Annual Honors College Ball - A Raging Success!**

By Hafsa Shahid

With almost four hundred guests from the UIC community, the Renaissance hotel was a perfect venue for the thirteenth annual Honors College ball. The hotel's classy décor and architecture complemented the ball's masquerade theme well.

Whether it was Chancellor Manning and Vice-Provost Kaufman delivering the opening remarks or the students, faculty and staff enjoying a slow dance, the spirit of the masks glittered all night long.

Among the many aspects of this year's ball, the two that took the cake were the ethnic mix of music and the variety of delectable hors d'oeuvres. At one point, the well-enjoyed music invited so many dancers that the DJ had to re-orient everyone to accommodate them on the dance floor. Towards the end, many guests concluded the night with memorable pictures with friends.

The Honors College Advisory Board is proud to announce that the fundraising efforts from the silent auction are benefiting two worthwhile causes: an Honors College scholarship has been awarded to Heather Mayes, and the rest of the proceeds will be contributed to the Global Medical Relief Program with their efforts to aid the recent earthquake victims in Pakistan. The board is grateful to everyone who participated in the auction.

**Check out the Photo Album on pgs. 10-11**

## **BLEEX: The Human-Machine**

By Pratik Shah

We have all seen movies such as The Terminator and Matrix, in which characters are part human and part machines; however not in anyone's wildest dreams did anyone think it would become a reality. The Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley has developed BLEEX. In addition to being able to carry superhuman loads across long distances, develop artificial arms, hands, and legs and to scan the environment with eyes that are more machine than human, BLEEX is introduced as the "human machine." What is most extraordinary about the BLEEX is its resemblance to normal humans that allows it to easily blend in with the social environment.

The machine is a personal assistant, which is still in its fine-tuning process and is used mainly for industrial and military purposes. Homayoon Kazerooni, the director of robotics engineering, states in reference to robotics in our ever-changing society, "You use glasses, and they help you to see better; you carry a cell phone to communicate with people.... It was always there. But now, it's becoming more organic, more integrated — we already have artificial hips, remember." So although the technology exists, the ability to have it aid humans is a new discovery that has spurred a new surge of research in the field of bionics.

Not only is BLEEX the first robotic creation of scientists, Drextra, the first multi-finger artificial hand was created at Rutgers University (New Jersey) not too long ago, displaying a stepping stone that could be used to push the limits of human robotics.

Using vast biological and mechanical knowledge of muscle and nerve mapping, scientists have been able to create machines to do the job that a normal hand may not be able to do. Although the robotic hand is far from excellent, this small step in the machine world can lead to even greater triumphs and successes for improving the lives of humans.

The power of the human eye is miraculous, however what is more impressive is the ability to reproduce the human eye to with the exact precision we have now. The main beneficiaries to the bionic eye are for those who have lost their retinas due to diseases that effect vision or to those who have suffered damage due to old age. The bionic eye is made of a tiny computer, a small solar-powered battery, and a light sensing chip attached to a tiny video camera, creating a basic replica of the real human eye. Early trials on rats have led to the hope of these mechanical miracles to have 20/80 vision capability when used as a substitute for the real eye. It is with this technology that we see the advances machines have and the benefits they bring to our society, especially those who seek to create new lives.

Although many people cringe at the possibility of having a real machine with the ability to perform human functions, bionic scientists have concluded that the people have nothing to fear, for it is these robots that are here to make our lives better. Kazerooni says it best, "If you have a firefighter whose carrying major equipment, we want to make his life a little bit easier and help him avoid injuries. Or a guy working in an auto-assembly line. It's all about making human life better."

For information about the Bleex Project such as pictures, videos, and more details visit:

<http://bleex.me.berkeley.edu/bleex.htm>

**Sanchez** (cont'd. from page 17)

in Oaxaca, Mexico. While in the Dominican Republic she donated her time to teach English. Sanchez has also had her works published in poetry and literary magazines.

Sanchez's ultimate goal is to become an accomplished writer and professor. After she completes her teaching assistantship in Spain, she plans to return to the U.S. to attend graduate school. Her plans include obtaining a Master's of Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing and moving on to a Ph.D. in multi-ethnic literature.

Sanchez is a resident of Cicero, Ill. She is a 2002 graduate of Morton East High School in Cicero.

**Obama** (cont'd. from page 16)

synonymous with perfection and it is not detrimental to question oneself or change one's mind. In the novel, Obama recalls several different choices (i.e. his first choice of college and his first choice of career) he made that did not go through as planned, however, it is the perseverance with which he proceeded that led him to his current success. Especially in the college atmosphere, where so much emphasis is placed on getting things right the first time, it is a refreshing change of pace to allow people the opportunity to find out what they want to do with their lives in their own time.

That is not to say that a indecisive culture should be bred, but rather, it reduces the immense amount of pressure facing most college students today. Much like myself, I am sure much of educated America is, sick of hearing the inconsequential details of "Britney's new baby" and such nonsense, this novel proves a welcomed change-of-pace of intellectual discourse for the American public to chew on.

**Mock Trial** Cont'd from 1st page

Each team is required to present both sides of the case twice over the course of four rounds. Both attorney and witness roles must be well prepared as they weigh in equally in the scoring of the ballots.

UIC was complimented by judges for their preparation, professionalism, courtroom demeanor, and understanding of the rules of evidence. Witnesses were commended on their ability to engage the judges with interesting testimony and ability to develop a character outside of their own. Attorneys were also praised for their ability to adjust and 'think on their feet' if a certain part of the trial didn't go according to plan.

The UIC Mock Trial team is headed by captains: Karim Rajabali and Alana Zuis. Team coaches Nicholas Gowen and Carrie Fino and team advisors Judge A.C. Cunningham and Patrick Reardon provided their expertise and were key elements to the team's success. Team members this year were: Shahzeen Karim, Anahit Gomtsian, Zenda Johnson, Jessica Stein, Towfiq Farraj, Kevin Parecha, Ryan Nolte, Natasha Shah.

The Mock Trial team is sponsored by the Political Science Department and this year received generous donations from both the Honors College and Mock Trial Alumni who competed on the UIC teams in year's past and have gone on to become attorneys.

The team is looking forward to next year as it will be returning with a more experience, well seasoned cast and will be recruiting heavily come September 2006. Interested undergraduate students who are interested in trial law, acting, or simply looking for something challenging and competitive should contact [uicmocktrial@gmail.com](mailto:uicmocktrial@gmail.com).

**Student in the Spotlight:**

**Joshua Johnson** By Jessica Huang

Joshua Johnson is a third year pursuing a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. He is a member of the UIC Swimming and Diving team, and started diving as a junior at the Illinois Math and Science Academy.



**Why did you choose diving?**

I have always enjoyed flipping and acrobatics on the trampoline in my backyard. It seemed like a perfect fit.

**What is the difference between swimming and diving?**

Diving makes up events in a swimming meet. In a swimming meet there are races, and the winners of each race earn points for the team.

Diving counts as an event just like a race. In college there are three diving events: 1 meter springboard, 3 meter springboard, and 10 meter platform. At UIC we compete in 1 and 3 meter springboards. 10 meter platform is generally found at bigger schools.

**What was your favorite meet?**

My favorite meet is always the conference meet. It is the last meet of the year. It is the culmination of 6 months of work during the previous school year. There are different events everyday. Diving occurs everyday, but one day will be one level for guys and the next it will be one level for girls. So it is spread out through the entire week.

Next year the conference meet will be at UIC. This year it was at Cleveland State University.

**What is it like to be a student-athlete at UIC?**

It is a lot of fun and a lot of work. It takes up so much time that it is easy to fall behind.

Who is your favorite athlete and why? I don't really have a favorite athlete. I am a big fan of any athlete who performs an acrobatic sport.

**Are you involved with any other activities?**

I am the RA of SRH 7 on West Side. I am also in the Fury. There are several other activities I would like to do, but I don't have time due to athletics and being an RA.

**What are your future goals and plans?**

I plan to attend graduate school. I want a career in molecular biology research.

**Who is your hero? Who inspires you?**

Francis Collins. He was head of the NIH National Human Genome Research Institute efforts for the Human Genome Project. His hard work helped further genetic knowledge greatly. He was the speaker at my high school graduation, and he is very down to earth. Even though he has this great scientific achievement, he is still modest and wants to continue improving the knowledge we have about genetics in order to benefit everyone.

## The Truman Scholarship – Are You Ready For a Personal Challenge?

By Liat Shetret

After memorizing the latest developments in China, Japan, Israel, Chicago, Washington D.C., who my Alderman is, grounding my opinions on issues of life, death, torture, slavery, leadership, riots in France, humanitarian aid, and reading every newspaper and current events magazine published within the last three weeks - not to mention withstanding challenging mock interviews from UIC's finest staff and faculty - I felt prepared and confident to meet the Truman Scholarship Interview Panel in Washington DC as a Truman Finalist from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Applying for the Truman Scholarship is a process that begins when you turn three years old – at least three years old. You must then reach a firm decision with yourself that a career in public service, one that is devoted to the well-being of others, is a lifestyle and not a job nor hobby. The Truman application process – which lasts roughly 9 months - reminded me of behavior patterns from the sandbox – I was always quick to share my toys and choke back the tears when things didn't go my way. In case you have not spent so many years reflecting on your desired career, and public service is a new and beloved venture for you, I urge you to hop and skip over to the Office of Special Scholarships (Grant Hall) and find out more about this tremendous opportunity.

The actual application is rigorous, enlightening, frustrating, bittersweet, engaging, testing demanding, and satisfying – all at once. The questions and policy proposal (yes, you have to write a policy proposal!), are all limited by a word count – so if you tend to be loquacious, and long-winded, as I am, writing succinctly is a personal challenge. After the initial application is submitted you wait. You wait and wait for a month – a month in which you gain five pounds (at least!), become addicted to celebrity magazines, drive your roommates crazy with your insecurities, wonder what you could have done better, read and re-read your application three times a night – and then the anticipated day finally comes - and you find out whether you have been named a Truman Finalist or not.

And here I take a wild leap and fast-forward to the actual interview experience in Washington DC. As I walked into my interview I was somewhat nervous. After gracefully flying back in an overly-reclining chair, I



2006 Truman Finalists in front of the White House

## UIC Student Receives Prestigious National Science Scholarship

Amit Nathani, sophomore at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), has received the Barry M.



Goldwater Scholarship. Nathani was one of 323 recipients nation-wide announced Friday. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship awards outstanding students in mathematics, science and engineering with a \$7,500 scholarship for each of the remaining years of undergraduate work at their home institution. Nathani is a sophomore, and so upon meeting the requirements again next year, will receive the scholarship for both his junior and senior years at UIC.

Nathani is a double major in biology and philosophy and maintains a 3.88/4.0 GPA. He is a member of both the Honors College and the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions Initiative medical program (GPPA-Medicine). He plans to pursue an M.D./PhD after completing his undergraduate studies.

In the summer of 2005 Nathani was selected as a National Science Foundation fellow in neuroscience. This fellowship gave him the opportunity to work in the University of Illinois-Chicago Laboratory of Integrative Neuroscience under the tutelage of Dr. Michael Ragozzino. In the lab, Nathani investigated whether temporary inactivation of GABA-A neuroreceptors in the parafascicular nuclei of the thalamus affects acquisition of reversal learning.

Nathani's passions also extend beyond the lab. He is a member of the UIC NCAA Division-I Men's tennis team, and is a singer of a Hindi-English A Cappella Music Group, which is currently recording a CD. Nathani is a resident of Mendota, IL. He is a 2004 graduate of the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) in Aurora, IL, and spent his first year of high school at St. Bede Academy in Peru, IL.

## UIC Senior Receives Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to Spain

Erika Sanchez, senior at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain. Sanchez will spend nine months (from September to mid-June) as a teaching assistant of English as a Foreign Language in a high school (location to be determined).

The U.S. Fulbright Student Program English teaching assistantships cover all expenses for participants, as well as provide a monthly stipend to them. The Fulbright Commission of Spain only awards teaching assistantships to individuals from the United States. This year the commission is expected to award nine assistantships. In addition to her instructing duties, Sanchez will also be using her time abroad to research and write her own works of prose and poetry.

Sanchez is completing an English major with a concentration in creative writing. Upon graduation she will also have completed a Spanish minor. She is an Honors College student and a member of the President's Award Program.

Sanchez's experiences thus far make her well-suited for her upcoming Fulbright experience. She not only studied abroad in the Dominican Republic in Spring 2004, but she also spent last summer studying

## Dreams From My Father; An Insight into Barack Obama

By Emily Finchum

Penetrating and insightful, Barack Obama's autobiographical novel *Dreams from My Father*, which was recently re-released due to his newly-achieved notoriety, gives a peek into Obama's past and the situations that, he believes, shaped the man he is today. As the child of an African father and a white American mother, he discusses growing up in a partially-segregated world that would never accept him as either white nor black. Adding to the emotional hardships was the absence of his ever-demanding father whose attitude towards his son often reflected that of disciplinarian bent on academic achievement. In the account of his early life, it is his father's absence and the social climate of the predominantly-Caucasian grade school he attended that caused much of his pre-collegiate rebellion and caused him to, essentially, redefine the way he saw himself in relation to the Caucasian and African-American communities.

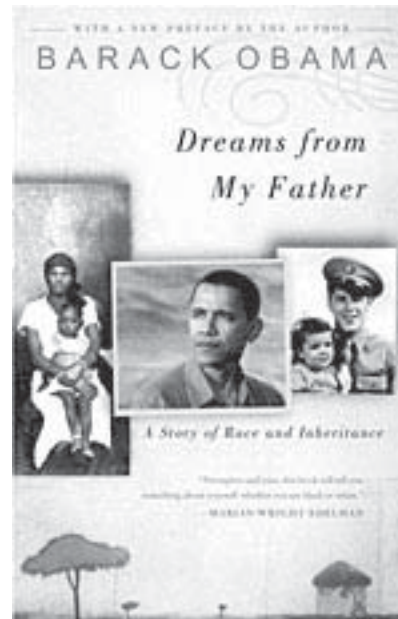
Even though the novel contains many of Obama's achievements and his experiences the tone is more nostalgic and reflective than that of gloating or self-preoccupation. The best aspect, in my opinion, is the level of honesty that is expressed through the stories of Obama's youth. He admits to recreational use of drugs, something for which democratic and republican politicians alike have been vilified; extensive drinking; and a general apathy towards academia in high school and the first part of his college career. He makes no excuses about his mistakes, though he does list a great number of them. It quickly becomes a story of tenacity when Obama transfers to Columbia University in New York and begins to build upon his skills as a community planner. It is here that he

begins to incite change, something that he struggled with in his first two years of college.

The novel also goes on to describe Obama's extensive work in New York, Washington D.C., and Chicago, attempting to make a niche for himself in urban planning. Many do not realize how strong a force he was in mitigating the many crises involved with life in the Chicago housing projects, particularly Altgeld Gardens, a project on the south side. What the novel does not mention, which I believe are truly a testament to his credentials, was that Obama was a key force in the elections of President Bill Clinton and Carol Moseley Braun, the nation's first female African-American U.S. Senator, in that he pushed a vigorous voter registration program that turned out over 100,000 excess voters. In 2004, Obama, of course, ran for U.S. Senator for Illinois and won.

What is amazing, I thought, about this work, is that it is inspirational and, yet, not unrealistic. Often the role models that America's youth are on one of two ends of a spectrum: the first being the saint-like and the second being the famous. In both cases, it is impossible for people to follow the examples set by either party.

Essentially, what this novel expresses are the facts that success is not necessarily



regained my composure and anticipated my first question. Although I fumbled a bit at the beginning, I feel that I managed to convey the complexity of situations to the six distinguished members of the panel within the 30-second time frame. I was surprised the interview went by so fast and found myself discussing the merits of using music to break down cultural barriers, how I would deal with an order that was given to me in the military that I deemed unethical, what I thought about torture, why I think my policy is timely, and how is it that the logistics corps in the IDF is so diverse, along with my general thoughts about the Dubai fiasco. I used every opportunity to connect these questions with my own life and experiences and did my best to convey my personality traits. I must admit that creatively connecting a question about the merits of torture to my own personal experiences was a challenge!

So, the good news is, I got a letter in the mail from Madeleine K. Albright. The bad news is that I did not win the award. When I learned who the winners were I was thrilled for one who was truly deserving, not surprised about another one, and somewhat bewildered by the third winner. The most difficult part was not knowing what the considerations for selection were, what the panel was looking for, and what I could have done differently to win. The third winner puzzled me and led me to the understanding that a number of arbitrary factors, many of which were certainly out of my control, contributed to the decision-making process. I can say for sure that dress and outfit considerations were not factors as seven of the twelve Finalists showed up to the interview wearing the same colored shirt – power blue!

Although I was not named a Truman Scholar I met a group of people, other Truman Finalists, who inspired me and showed me that juniors in college are equipped to change the world and make it even more beautiful than it is already. The twelve of us are planning a reunion in Washington DC this summer and coincidentally nine of us will be spending our summer there! I walk away with a truly positive and humbling experience, a fair amount of disappointment, and a renewed level of motivation and drive - mostly from the fact that it is finally over! My favorite part of the process was the unwavering support from UIC faculty, staff, and students throughout the entire process – thus I feel like a winner anyway!

I extend a special thank you to an extraordinary mentor – Beth Powers, as well as a warm and sincere thank you to the following: Amanda Onysio, Kate Knicker, the UIC Mock Panel Members, EVERYONE at the Honors College, my Fellow Matthew Lippman, IGPA faculty - Dr. Bob Rich, Prof. Rachel Gordon, and Prof. Bob Kaestner, Jeff Esser at GFOA, as well as Jennifer Woodard, Rickie Jacobs, Jennifer Kosco, Noam, Kobi, Galit, Mom, Dad, Moti, Daniel Govaer, Daniel Selan, and Alaine Kalder – and if I have forgotten anyone, it is only due to my progressive loss of short-term memory capabilities following such a drawn-out experience – forgive me.

I am happy to share my experiences with students thinking about applying for the Truman Scholarship or a career in public service. As a matter of fact, I think applying for the Truman should be mandatory, just like the abolishment of apathy is a burden equally set on each of our shoulders. Please feel free to email me at [lshetr1@uic.edu](mailto:lshetr1@uic.edu) if I can be of any assistance in your future application.

## Honors College Alumni on Teaching and Research Adventures in Asia

By Beth Powers

Sae Rom Chae and Brandi More, 2005 UIC College graduates, are having the experience of a lifetime as they spend the 2005-2006 academic year as Fulbrighters. Sae Rom is a researcher at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Brandi is an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Depok A suburb of Jakarta, Indonesia.

I visited them over spring break in Kuala Lumpur and got a glimpse into the lives of Fulbrighters generally, and those in South East Asia specifically. The Fulbright experience varies widely from country to county and even within countries. Sae Rom is pursuing research on how religious background influences attitudes toward sexual health, especially HIV/AIDS. Her work involves taking a class through the medical college at her university, attending lectures and conferences, interviewing experts, extensive reading and a lot of independent research through the Internet and libraries. Sae Rom lives in a comfortable high rise apartment along with several other Fulbright researchers and commutes daily to the nearby campus of the University of Malaya. Brandi, meanwhile, spends her days teaching spoken English to 14-17 year old high school students. Her teaching duties occupy most of the morning and early afternoon hours Monday through Friday, and she has her afternoons free for planning, exploring the area, grocery shopping and staying in touch with family, friends and fellow ETAs around Indonesia through e-mail. Brandi lives in a small house that lacks a shower but makes up for it in charming stone and woodwork. She is the only American in her area. Both students have had to adjust to the warm climate and the two seasons, rainy and sunny. In both countries, the Fulbrighters have determined

that modest dress is appropriate so they are becoming experts on finding comfortable clothes that keep them well covered. There are insects, many not common to the Chicago area, like flying roaches, to get used to as well as lizards and rodents that can make life interesting.

Both Brandi and Sae Rom have faced challenges in adjusting to life in their host countries, but have found the experience valuable personally and professionally. Sae Rom says, "I love the freedom of it. I am free to learn whatever I want to learn. I've made great friends and I am learning a lot about Chinese and Malay culture. You can't beat a long term experience in another country." Brandi has been impressed with her students. "They have no air conditioning and hav to live with lizards and bugs and sit in hard wooden seats, but they don't complain. They find ways to stay busy and seem thankful for what they have. Teaching forces you to be a part of the culture and it commands great respect in Indonesian culture. This experience has taught me that I can handle much more change than I thought I could. It has been gratifying breaking down barriers, my own and their and prejudgments about 'those people' who are now friends."



## Taste of Chaos - Concert Review

By Steve Kotsiris

Fans of many types of music gathered at the UIC Pavilion on March 14<sup>th</sup> to see their favorite bands perform on the Taste of Chaos Tour. Ranging from big-name bands such as *Story of the Year*, *Thrice*, *Atreyu*, and the headlining *Deftones*, to up-and-coming bands *Thursday*, *Greeley Estates*, and *The Receiving End of Sirens*, this tour promised a wide range of music from punk/pop to goth/death metal.

The concert began at 5:30 pm, however, not familiar with the opening bands, I didn't go until 7. As I walked in, *As I Lay Dying* was just concluding their performance: a little heavy for my taste but well received among the pit of moshers flailing their arms wildly. The setup was one I had never experienced before in which there were two stages set up for the bands on the one main stage. For the lesser known bands was the small side stage, and for the more established bands was the larger main stage. The stage size, however, did not affect the audience reaction to any of the bands. In fact, many of the people I met were there for some of those smaller bands.

As with most big concert tours, there was much publicity and plugging for the smaller bands: from free demo CDs to advertisements and autographs, band members took the opportunity to mingle with the people around the pavilion. I went around like most people scoping out the free stuff and hitting the kiosks with the most to offer. Leaving with 5 sampler CDs of several different bands, some not even present on tour, I felt I got my money's worth. The further we got into the concert, the more energizing and popular the bands became. The performances I enjoyed the most were *Thrice* and *Story of the Year*. Both played their radio hits and songs off of their new albums, keeping the audience pumped by conversation and filling in the lyrics. Overall, Taste of Chaos was an awesome concert with many impressive up-and-coming and main stage bands. This was my first time going to this tour and I would definitely do it again next year.

## Lunch from Lalo's is a Big Hit with Honors College Students!



Elizabeth Boyle, Liat Shetret & Erin VanBladel



Shripaad Shukla & Victor Sapozhnikov

## Morgan's Bar and Grill on Maxwell's - Restaurant Review

By Jessica Sheng

Since my first visit to Morgans on Maxwell's a few months after their grand opening, their service greatly improved. The first time I went to Morgan's, the waitress hardly ever came by to refill my drink or see how things were – I usually had to find a worker to bring more water. Also, the time it took to receive my food was terrible. I went on a Sunday morning, and there were very few people other than myself, yet it took nearly 40 minutes to receive my food. Morgan's has now been open for over half a year, and things have definitely changed. The waitresses were much better about checking up on the table, providing refills, and brought out the orders within a timely manner. Now to the most important part of the review – the food!

The menu selection was fairly diverse, ranging from burgers to salads to pasta. Despite the wide selection, nothing really stood out as being a "must-try." I ordered the chicken philly and it looked incredible when the waitress placed it in front of my face. The first bite was satisfying; the blend of green pepper, onion, mushrooms, cheese, and chicken breast came together nicely. However, halfway through the sandwich, I quickly grew tired of the taste and felt as though something were missing. I'm not sure what the Chicken Philly was lacking, at the end of the meal I was left wanting more. Morgan's interior design provides a comfortable environment and plenty of entertainment (if you're a sports junky). The 12 plasma televisions throughout the restaurant are usually tuned to ESPN SportsCenter and whatever sporting event is occurring that day.

The bar has 24 domestic and imported beers on tap; come game-day, the bar tends to get quite eventful. Overall, the experience at Morgan's was worth the \$10-15, but I don't think I would eat there on a regular basis. However, if you're looking to try out the service and food, a great day to go would be on Monday nights. Morgan's has their "25 cent Wing Night" on Mondays. The best idea would be to bring a bunch of friends and order anywhere from 80 to 100 wings to share. The bill comes out to be inexpensive, costing at the most around \$6, but of course, it depends how many people you bring and how many wings you can eat! Although it's the same flavor of wings every Monday, sweet and spicy, it makes for a fun, easy and inexpensive meal. The only problem is sauces. Morgan's has been quite irregular with providing sauces for the wings.

The first time I went, the wings came free with two sauces, blue cheese and ranch. However, the next time I was told that the sauces would cost extra. In any case, the sauces aren't too expensive, so it will be worth your money if you like them. Something to avoid ordering is the celery sticks. These do not come automatically if you get sauces, and you never know how many celery sticks you will be provided. One time when I went, we ordered the celery sticks and ended up with two very tiny wimpy sticks that cost \$1, and when we complained, the waitress said she couldn't do anything about it! Although the food and service may not be completely satisfactory, the entire experience of a bar/restaurant is good to experience especially on Mondays when it won't leave a hole in your wallet!

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Hours:</b>
1325 S Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 243-4800	10 a.m.-2 a.m. Sunday- Friday; 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Saturday

While both Sae Rom and Brandi have found their year abroad challenging, they have found it very gratifying as well. They encourage other Honors College students to consider applying if they feel an experience abroad will suit their goals. Sae Rom recommends talking to your faculty mentors for feedback on the application. She feels the diversity of UIC prepared her well for the diversity of Malaysia. Classes on globalization, women in international perspective and public health got her thinking about the issues she is working on today and laid a strong foundation for her research.

Brandi's challenges in adjusting to UIC, from a high school that offered inadequate college preparation, helped her in adjusting to the cultural and language challenges of Indonesia. Her teaching experience in Chicago area high schools and a methods course at UIC helped her in walking more



SaeRom, Brandi & Beth

confidently into the classroom. When I asked them which personal qualities they called upon most in making their current experiences work for them, they cited patience, open mindedness, persistence, stamina, perseverance and a good attitude.

Sae Rom and Brandi find Fulbright has influenced their career goals in direct and indirect ways. Brandi plans to teach and she values the comparative experience of learning how young people learn in a resource-challenged environment and how teachers face the responsibility of educating the young. She feels we can learn from other countries in improving our education system and they can learn from us as well. Sae Rom says

she has realized the vital role non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in society and this has strengthened her interest in a career in such a group. She has also seen strong mentorship between students and faculty in action, which has piqued her interest in teaching and giving back to students the way she has been mentored.

Brandi's advice to students applying for

Fulbright: be realistic, prepare for the worst, plan to stick to it and realize the difference you can make in your students' education in teaching the people you meet about the difference between the America in the press and a real American. They both encourage student



An entrance to a temple in Singapore

to meet people from the host country and make as many contacts as possible in the country, and they caution Americans to be ready for a much slower pace of getting things done, which requires early planning, even before departing.

So, are you ready to push your limits, to take your valuable Honors College education and apply it as a teacher of English or a researcher? These two Fulbrighters confirm that you will have the experience of a lifetime. To apply for a Fulbright to go abroad in the fall of 2007, you need to begin now. You can do research/study in over 130 countries and teach English in 20. Contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs at 355-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu) to learn more about applying for the Fulbright Fellowship.

For questions of Brandi or Sae Rom, you can reach them at [aeromchae@gmail.com](mailto:aeromchae@gmail.com) or [mojo1198@yahoo.com](mailto:mojo1198@yahoo.com).

## ASB Spring Trip to Champa House Colorado

By Oisin Kenny

In the middle of March the ASB team, consisting of Robert Paszkowski, Oisin Kenny, Krystyna Wesolowski, Sana Jafri, and Oladimeji Fashola, departed for Denver, Colorado to volunteer with the homeless and impoverished. Once arrived, we began volunteering through the Denver Rescue Mission through its Crossing and Champa House aid centers. While at the locations we helped remodel the buildings providing a better environment and more space for the area's inhabitants while serving food and looking after children. We were impressed at the Denver Rescue Mission and how they worked for Denver's homeless and impoverished. In their well run facilities we could see the level of organization and dedication put into caring for the people of Denver, done mostly by graduates of the drug rehabilitation program.

On many occasions while volunteering at the Crossing we were fortunate enough to hear the stories of addiction, abuse, and hopelessness that many people were willing to share. Hearing of their troubles and seeing their efforts of recovery reminded us of how easy it is to succumb to drug abuse and the difficulty involved with the rehabilitation process. I felt the group, even though not ignorant to the misgivings of the poor, gained a better understanding of their situation and problems that they must face. Perhaps most moving of all was volunteering at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church and seeing teenagers line up in the bread line waiting for their turn in the soup kitchen. Seeing people younger than yourself lost and homeless in a large city brought on strong feelings of appreciation for one's own life and how fortunate many of us are to have a bed to sleep in.

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In addition to working at the Crossing we received a Denver street tour from Juan Gallegos, one of the coordinators of the Denver Rescue Mission who showed us the programs that were in place to help the needy in the city. Seeing job centers and private charity organizations working together couldn't help but raise our spirits and make us glad that those in need were being looked after. Exploring the inside of the aid center and witnessing a retired dentist volunteering his time and malpractice insurance to treat the homeless was remarkable being able to see such a dedicated person. Additionally, while on the tour John gave us personal accounts of the area and what he had seen. He shared stories of once millionaire stock brokers now addicted to crack roaming the streets and showed us how prostitution and drug abuse is conducted behind the soup kitchen walls in the nearby alley. Walking through the alley we could see people eating out of the garbage and the profanity and waste left behind on the walls and streets. Seeing a Tsunami victim with his only possessions of bed sheets and rags residing on a nearby fence living with no ability to communicate with nearby people or no surviving family to lend him support in his troubles reminded us of the great pains that people suffer and how difficult it is for them to get back on their feet.

While volunteering at the Champa House the group was able to interact with homeless children and their single parent mothers. Teaching the children how to count and play in a variety of games, it was easy to see the difficulty their families would have without the assistance given by the rescue mission and how the children's educational opportunities would not be able to fulfill their

how to start our projects and schedule our meetings. In UPP 101 we began learning about urban theories and Chicago history. Now in UPP 202 with Barbara Sherry, we are practically experts at working with an agency. OK, I won't go as far as calling us experts. We have a constant stream of problems ranging from an agency having no available time for meetings to ending up at an evening CAPS meeting in North Lawndale. But I think it is safe to say that we are gaining an appreciation for the complexity of working in the city. However, that feeling that we are guinea pigs in some civic experiment is always there, but that isn't a bad thing. It is kind of exciting doing something so completely new and unheard of. We are undergraduate college students doing class work that is being used in the real world. Who knew that was possible?

What we have all come to learn is that working with an agency teaches you more about the inner workings of the city than any lecture class ever could. We schedule all of our own meetings and are responsible for carrying out required fieldwork and interviews. In fact, networking has been one of the best skills we have learned. As we have pondered abstract ideas of what makes a leader, it basically comes down to whether or not you can get things done. A leader is nothing with a constituency. This program has taught us just that. We are learning to be leaders from the inside. As I mentioned above, when it comes to planning in Chicago, you are either in or out.

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**Onysio** Cont'd. from page 9

### What do you bring to the OSSP?

I have a unique interest in study abroad and help students work on funding these opportunities. From my own experiences, I am able to relate to the student who does not necessarily qualify for need-

based scholarships and has to look for scholarships on their own. I had to do it for myself in college and when I studied abroad for a semester in Madrid. The scholarships are out there, but it takes persistence and patience to find them. Our office is here to help students with this process.

### What are your responsibilities at the OSSP?

I am the Assistant to the Director of OSSP, Beth Powers, Study Abroad Scholarship Advisor (and primarily work with the NSEP, Freeman-Asia, and Gilman scholarships), and help Joey Volpe with GPPA and the Scholarship Association.

### What is something unique about you and where are you from?

I have been to CIA headquarters. I am originally from Brookfield, IL and went to Miami University in Ohio for my undergraduate degree.

### What is some advice to Honors College students?

My advice to students is to take chances that you believe will make a difference to you. If you've always wondered if you could win a Rhodes Scholarship, apply for it! If you've always wondered what it would be like to study abroad, go for it! College is the time in your life to truly get the most out of what is available to you, and OSSP and the Honors College are here to help you make that happen. Whether it's a scholarship, an internship or a special opportunity that you are interested in, always believe that you can make it a reality.

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## The Chicago Civic Leadership Certificate

By Lauren Jennings

UIC loves its acronyms. It is a general pattern throughout the city of Chicago. Have you noticed that Chicago has a code, rhetoric if you will, that makes one either an insider or an outsider? UIC is fast becoming the educational heart of the city and it is no surprise that it is shaping itself to be a fast paced, industrious school with its finger on the pulse of the city. How do I know this? Well, I shouldn't. I grew up in a town where we had to drive 15 miles just to get to the grocery store. I started at UIC in the fall of '04 as a freshman and accidentally signed up for a program called the Chicago Civic Leadership Certificate Program or as we call it the CCLCP. Love those acronyms!

I had no interest in leadership, civic issues, or the inner workings of the city of Chicago but that was soon to change. The CCLCP is an experimental program, surprisingly enough, run by two women from UIC's English department, Ann Feldman and Diane Chin. The program is five semesters stretching two and a half years. As many of us were soon to learn, that is a long time.

We attend already established UIC classes but they are specially geared toward civic leadership. What makes these classes so different is that along with our regular class work, we are divided up and assigned to five community agencies in the city. We work with these agencies on various projects. Not only do we turn in our projects directly to the agencies, but also to our professors for a grade. They call this service learning.

The first year was English 160 and 161. Two very energetic young ladies named Candice Rai and Megan Marie taught the class. They worked hard to cram an ungodly amount of information into

the three, fifty-minute classes we had each week. But they were fun, insightful, and relentlessly optimistic, a wonderful quality rarely seen in college professors these days.

Because it was an English class, we also had many writing assignments added onto our agency projects. Since this is such a new program, at first, we were very confused as to exactly what was expected of us and what exactly we were doing. I remember my first agency visit, which was in Chinatown. There were five of us and no one knew exactly where we were going. For some reason, we thought we could just take the Red Line and figure it out when we got there. It didn't quite work out that way. To make a long story short, we ended up hitching a ride in the back of pick up truck. When we reported back to Candice, she nearly had a heart attack.

To add to the confusion, no one in the class had exactly the same project since we worked in groups at different agencies. Within those groups, we all had different assignments. I learned that networking in an agency and with our professors was much more difficult than the actual work. In a perfect world, we could just do our assignments, hand them in, and be done with it, but when you aren't even sure what your assignment is, the frustration begins to mount. At the end of my freshman year, I remember thinking that whatever lies at the end of this program could not possibly be worth all of this work. But alas, the year ended and there were still a good number of us left.

We had come out of that two-semester crash course ready for a new year, new agencies, and new professors. We started with Urban Planning and Policy 101 taught by Pam Freese and thankfully, things started to slow down. Being a year wiser and having spent time working with agencies, we knew

enthusiasm to learn. It was indeed pleasing to see that the children were well looked after so their mothers would have time to work on their G.E.D.'s. Being in an environment of progress was rewarding and made the trip a more fulfilling experience.

Once finished with our volunteer work we made use of our free time by exploring Denver's night life and of course its mountains. So, on our free day we packed our supplies and headed to Arapaho Basin where we snowboarded from eight o'clock in the morning to four o'clock in the afternoon. The experience was incredible being able to fly down a mountain at fifty miles an hour and know that friends in Chicago would be envious of you upon return. The group was glad for having tried snowboarding in addition to being able to reflect on the vast, surreal scenery of the mountains of Colorado. Upon returning from the snowboarding fest we returned for showers at the local YMCA before starting the sixteen hour trek to Chicago. Being in the van for the period of time was not as grueling as predicted thanks to the humor and stories of the group's participants. We felt proud for having given our time for the needy of Denver and being able to get a glimpse into their lives. Viewpoints on poverty were rearranged and ideas were created all thanks to a commitment made by dedicated UIC volunteers.

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### HCAB Ampersand Committee

*Shetret Liat, Guttikonda Sameera, & Kotsiris Steve*  
Thank you to: *Alkafaji Zina, Cheng Michael, Finchum Emily, Guttikonda Sameera, Huang Jessica, Jennings Lauren, Kenny, Oisin, Khadiwala Nisha, Powers Beth, Rajabali Karim, Shah Pratik, Shahid Hafsa, Sheng Jessica, Shukla Shripaad*

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A special thank you to our advisor **Jennifer Kosco**. Questions? Comments? Interested in writing for The Ampersand? Please email Liat at [Lshetr1@uic.edu](mailto:Lshetr1@uic.edu) or Jennifer Kosco at: [Jkosco@uic.edu](mailto:Jkosco@uic.edu)

## Faculty Focus on Amanda Onysio

By Shripaad Shukla



If you have visited the Office of Special Scholarships since October, you may have seen Amanda Onysio. Officially her title is Assistant to the Director, but she actually has multiple roles, including advising students looking

for study abroad scholarships. The information below will help you learn more about this interesting individual.

### Where were you prior to starting at UIC?

I came to UIC from Washington, D.C. For the past year, I was an analyst for the Department of Defense at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). My work consisted of analyzing satellite imagery from Asia.

### How did you make the transition from analyzing satellite imagery to advising students with scholarships?

My studies in college consisted of both political science and communications. My work at NGA fed my political science interest, but heavily involved military work. Knowing that I would not enjoy working in such a militarily-influenced environment for the rest of my career, I decided to switch gears and wanted to try something that related to my other interests. I realized I enjoyed mentoring others, especially college students, and so I was very happy when the chance to join OSSP came along.

Over 300 Honors College students, faculty, and staff enjoyed lunch from Lalo's at the HCAB Luncheon on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

# Photo Album

This year's Ball was a smashing success! Here are just a few photos taken that evening; to see lots more, please go to the website: <http://www.hc.uic.edu/2006Ball/gallery.html>

