

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

March 2004

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

March 4 – 5

UIC Scholarship Association Show  
“A Tale of Great Cities”

March 8

Last Day to Buy Tickets for the Ball

March 13

Honors College Ball

March 20

Spring Break Begins

## **“Above the City Lights” 11th Annual Honors College Ball**

**March 13, 2004**

In 1958, a group of influential Chicago civic and business leaders created a private club with an intimate atmosphere and international prestige. Since then, The Mid-America Club has gained a reputation as one of Chicago’s premiere business and social clubs. Located atop the Aon Center on the 80th floor, The Mid-America Club provides a 360-degree panoramic view of the city’s skyline and Lake Michigan, Grant Park and the Gold Coast. The club is also renowned for its world class cuisine and sophisticated service.

Join us in this intimate setting for “Above the City Lights,” the 11th Annual Honors College Ball! The evening begins with cocktails in The Grill Room, as a string quartet plays in the background. There are many exciting items available for bidding at the silent auction, including THREE graduate exam prep courses from The Princeton Review and Kaplan! The festivities then move to the elegant Burnham Ballroom, accented by Italian crystal chandeliers and overlooking Grant Park and the lakefront to the south. Guests will enjoy a gourmet three-course meal accented by the magnificent view, and can then dance the night away! This unique location will no doubt make the entire evening one to remember.

The Honors College Advisory Board is excited to give part of the proceeds from the silent auction to Project ESTEEM, a student-created, student-run volunteer organization. In addition, another part of the proceeds will go to create an HCAB scholarship fund, to be awarded to a deserving Honors College student. HCAB is excited to give back to Honors College students through their fundraising efforts, and we hope you will attend in support of this as well!

Student tickets are still available at \$35; staff and alumni tickets are available for \$45. Tickets are on sale in the lobby of Burnham Hall.

We hope you will join us for this exciting and elegant event at one of Chicago’s most unique locations. If you have any questions, please contact Kunjali at [kpady1@uic.edu](mailto:kpady1@uic.edu), or the Honors College at 413-2260. Visit the Honors College web page: <http://www.hc.uic.edu/> to find out the latest information on parking, the silent auction, and more. See you there!

## **A Tale of Great Cities... March 4 & 5 Second Annual Scholarship Show**

Did you know that there is a fun way for you to contribute to scholarships for UIC students?

The Second Annual UIC Scholarship Show is a musical/comedy show benefiting The Scholarship Association for UIC. The Scholarship Association awards over \$50,000 in scholarships for UIC students each year!

The show features performances by Honors College student James Criss and special cameo performances by Honors

College Dean Lon Kaufman and Assistant to the Dean Joey Volpe, plus many more. Emcee for the show is Brian Weddington, currently starring in Barbershop 2!

Performances for March 4th and 5th have a special student rate of \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door! It's a great way to contribute to scholarships and have a great night out, all for about the same price as a movie!

SECOND ANNUAL UIC SCHOLARSHIP SHOW  
A Tale of Great Cities

Thursday, March 4, 2004  
Friday, March 5, 2004

7:30 p.m.  
UIC Theatre  
1044 West Harrison Street

Tickets for the Thursday and Friday performances are on sale now and may be purchased at the ticket counters in both campus unions from 8:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Faculty, staff and friends of UIC tickets for Thursday or Friday:  
\$40 in advance, \$45 at the door - See you there!

Not Your Typical V-Day

by Cynthia Kay

V-Day probably isn't what you think it is, especially if pink hearts and red roses are what come to mind. Instead, *this* V-Day was founded by Eve Ensler, the genius behind *The Vagina Monologues*, and deals with a more important issue in society: violence against women.

Since its conception in 1998, V-Day has gone global. It now includes various campaigns focused on specific ways to stop the violence, these include the Africa, Middle East, & Asia Project targeting women's rights and ending gender-based violence, the 1% Campaign that hopes to see that 1% of America's national defense budget be used to protect our country's women, and the College Campaigns used to raise

*V-Day cont. on page 3*

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines!

Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships

Are you a graduating senior or a recent graduate who is interested in earning a graduate degree in the United Kingdom? Are you a demonstrated leader with at least a 4.7 GPA who is active in organizations at UIC and within the outside community?

If you answered yes to both of these questions, the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships may be exactly what you have been searching for to compliment your academic career. The Rhodes and the Marshall Scholarships award graduating seniors or students who have already graduated the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom.

The Rhodes scholarship provides direct payment of all tuition, fees and a monthly stipend for a minimum of two years study at Oxford University. 32 scholarships are assigned annually to the United States. The Marshall Scholarship covers tuition, fees, books, and the cost of living and travel expenses for two years of academic study at an institution in the United Kingdom. Up to 40 scholarships are awarded each year.

Regarding eligibility for the Rhodes and Marshall, applicants must be U.S. citizens, and must have completed their bachelor's degree by the beginning of their study. Generally, applicants must have at least a 4.7 GPA, extensive community and campus involvement, demonstrated leadership, service, and the potential to lead and serve others. Research and other academically related activities are a plus. Candidates should have a good rationale for their study in the UK. For the Rhodes, applicants must be between the ages of 18-24 on October 1 of the year in which they apply. For the Marshall, candidates must apply two years or less after completion of their bachelor's degree.

For more information on the scholarships, please consult the websites at [www.rhodesscholar.org](http://www.rhodesscholar.org) and [www.marshallscholarship.org](http://www.marshallscholarship.org). **The UIC deadline for both awards is March 31, 2004. The national deadlines will be in October 2004.** Candidates must be nominated by UIC, and may not apply directly. UIC students interested in applying should contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs for more information about the application process.

Informational Session

The Office of Special Scholarships is conducting an informational session for the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates-Cambridge, and Mitchell Scholarships on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm in the Quiet Study Room (room B11) in Burnham Hall. Come join us to find out more about scholarships that may be perfect for you!

*Special Scholarships cont. on page 3*

*V-Day, cont. from page 2*

money and knowledge of this very real issue within communities across the nation.

One way V-Day raises money is by having benefit productions of *The Vagina Monologues* across the nation. UIC was fortunate enough to be one stop in the 2004 V-Day College Campaign. On February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, *The Vagina Monologues* was performed in the Illinois Room of the CCC with some talented UIC students joining the cast.

The production itself proved to be a mixture of humor and deep poignancy. Monologue topics ranged from domestic abuse to discovering one's sexuality and rape. This would be the second year Josephine Volpe, Assistant to the Dean of the Honors College and Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, has seen the production on campus. Her reasons for attending the performances was that "[it is] poignant, funny, serious, and necessary. It was [also] a wonderful opportunity to contribute my support for women's rights and show my support for those at UIC and throughout Chicagoland who make the rights of women foremost in their lives."

Personally, I admit being a little conservative when it comes to discussing sex, sexuality, and well, vaginas. But, I was surprised at how non-embarrassed I was during the overall performance. Maybe it was how the actresses were so matter-of-fact and candid in their dialogues, or the realization that *The Vagina Monologues* wasn't discussing these issues and topics purely to evoke a certain reaction from the audience. They addressed these things, because it doesn't have to be embarrassing or disgusting to talk about them. In fact, these are the subjects that arguably need to be brought out into the open, because too many people have little knowledge concerning them, or choose to remain uninformed.

The general consensus on the show? It was amazing. And it admirably got to the heart of the matter without worrying about the niceties in dealing with such issues that have remained out of society's spotlight.

For more information on V-Day and how you can help, please visit: <http://www.vday.org>

*Special Scholarships, cont. from page 2*

### **The McKelvie Scholarship and The J.W. Saxe Memorial Fund**

The McKelvie scholarship awards 20 stipends of up to \$2000 to both undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in public service. The McKelvie mission is to promote and strengthen public service leadership in both the public and private sector. Applicants should demonstrate academic excellence, evidence of commitment to a public service career, and must be able to elaborate on their past, current, or future participation in a public service. Applications are available at the Office of Special Scholarships. **The application deadline is Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004.**

The J.W. Saxe Memorial Fund provides \$1500 scholarships annually to one or more undergraduate or graduate students working in public service. The award is meant to enable the student to gain practical experience in public service by taking a no-pay or low-pay job during a summer or other term. Preference is given to students who already have a place in an existing program or who have created their own program. For more information, please consult their website at [www.jwsaxefund.org](http://www.jwsaxefund.org), or pick-up an informational form at the Office of Special Scholarships. **The application deadline is March 15.**

The McKelvie scholarship applications and the J.W. Saxe informational handouts are now available at the Office of Special Scholarships, 104 Grant Hall.

Office of Special Scholarship Programs  
104 Grant Hall  
703 S. Morgan St. (M/C115)  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone: 312-355-2477  
Fax: 312-355-1233

## JPHAS: Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students

What it is, how to pronounce JPHAS, and more...

by Kamala Saha

**“What is JPHAS?”** The mission of the Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS) is to publish a journal for pre-health students that serves as a resource for idea exchange and expression regarding various health topics. Our organization welcomes all pre-health students to contribute articles on topics that are useful and informative to fellow students considering a health profession.

**“I’ve always wondered...how exactly do you pronounce JPHAS?”** Ha ha. Do not feel silly for wondering what the correct pronunciation of JPHAS is! The JPHAS Staff is constantly bombarded by curious readers who wonder how to say “JPHAS.” Actually, it is easiest to pronounce JPHAS by first saying “J” and then the word “phase.” “J.” “Phase.” Hope that helps!

**“Is JPHAS FREE or do I have to buy a copy of the Journal?”** JPHAS is lucky to have generous sponsors who make it possible for JPHAS to publish our Journal and offer free copies to all interested readers. Our Spring 2004 Issue, which will be released in just 1 week, can be picked up at numerous locations around campus such as the Honors College, Department of Biological Sciences, and on the West Side of campus.

**“Is JPHAS planning anything new for devoted readers to eagerly anticipate?”** Now that you mention it, yes we are! JPHAS is in the process of starting a writing competition open to all UIC students interested in contributing relevant works for judging. Watch for more info coming soon!

**“How can I write/contribute to JPHAS?”** The JPHAS Staff consists of a talented team of editors, writers, artists, photographers, layout designers, and a webmaster. We also are fortunate to have a group of excellent contributing writers for each issue. We have just started accepting applications for all Staff positions. Please visit our website to download an application! Application deadline is May 16th, 2004.

**“Sign me up! Who should I contact for more info?”** We encourage anyone interested in JPHAS to visit our website at: <http://uicjphas.cjb.net>. You can read the online version of our Spring 2004 issue online, as well as access all past issues or read more about the JPHAS Staff and the application process. Also, you may e-mail the JPHAS staff at [jphas@hotmail.com](mailto:jphas@hotmail.com) or contact Pius Wong and Kamala Saha for additional info.

**Read JPHAS in print or online at: <http://uicjphas.cjb.net> !**

If you'd like your organization featured in upcoming issues of the Ampersand, drop HCAB a note into our mailbox in the Honors College Lounge!

## So you think you are ready to play **Trivial Pursuit**?

Give these questions a try!

by Ada Moadsiri

1. The full name of the author of this fantasy that, although its title deceives, has nothing to do with your wardrobe.
2. Photographer Annie Leibovitz shot Bruce Springstein's rear view for the cover of this best selling album.
3. Sounds with frequencies above 20,000 hertz are called
  - A) infrasonic
  - B) ultrasonic
4. What was the first U.S. warship to make a trip around the world?
  - a) The U.S.S Enterprise
  - b) The U.S.S.S.S.
  - c) The U.S.S. Battle Cruiser
  - d) The U.S.S. Vincennes
5. Which author who once said ‘There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics’?
  - a. Charles Dickens
  - b. Edgar Allen Poe
  - c. Mark Twain
  - d. Ben Franklin
6. If all your blood vessels were laid end to end, could they make two circles around the moon, the sun, or the earth?
7. Katherine Hepburn won the best actress Oscar for this 1967 film which co-starred real life love Spencer Tracy.
8. There are this many prime numbers between 0 and 10.
9. Name the only ancient wonder located in modern day Iraq.
10. What NFL team was the first to win a Super Bowl after losing one?

# Life Lessons from an Old Man...

## Or at Least an Old Student

by Joe Morgan

*This article is dedicated to Jacob; thanks for teaching me this lesson once again, and for being my number one AMPERSAND fan!!*

After having attended UIC for almost three years, and having worked on campus for two summers now, I would like to think of myself as a “seasoned” student. You know, one of those kids who everyone thinks has been here for seventeen years, and knows everything there is to know about this campus; the ins and outs, the background information, the history...

I want to drive a point home; this is not an article about the history of UIC, or how to do your laundry for free if you live on campus (call me for that information). This is more of an editorial on something that I have learned over the past few years, and that I think is a very important lesson. This is something that has helped me make it to the place that I am today, and has assisted me in all that I have done at UIC. This is a big piece of information. This is more important than anything you will learn in your four years at this university. This will help you to maintain relationships, evaluate yourself, and help you to succeed in whatever you do in life. Are you ready? Sit back, hold on to your seats, because here it comes...

### **NEVER judge a book by its cover.**

Anti-climactic you say? What are you talking about? Okay, okay; I know that this is a phrase that you have been hearing since you were six years old. You (or at least I) would come home from school, an egocentric little six year old, who did not like the kid I sat next to because they smelled, or they wore bad clothes, or they just didn't do things the

*Life Lessons, cont. on page 7*

# Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Virginia Wexman

by Noopur Mehta

We all love movies—who doesn't? However, Dr. Virginia Wexman *really* loves movies; she has made them a part of her career. Dr. Wexman has been interested in movies since childhood. Since her brothers were much younger, she found companionship in books and movies. Because she had such a huge interest in film, she continued to work at it and pursue it as a career.

Dr. Wexman first attended college at Northwestern University, where she enrolled for two years before she married and had children. She decided later to return to school and complete her degree. She attended the University of Chicago, where she attained her B.A, M.A., and Ph.D. During the time she was working on her Ph.D., she taught a composition course at UIC where she ended up staying and attaining tenure. As a graduate student, she briefly considered a career in broadcasting and producing. She chose teaching instead because of the independence and longevity it offered. She felt that being a professor allowed the direction and independence that she wanted out of her career. A factor that played a role in her decision to pursue film studies was the encouragement and accommodation that she received when she attended graduate school at U of C.

Dr. Wexman wrote a book called “Creating the Couple” which initially started out as being about film acting but as she researched further, she became more interested in how the star personas and Hollywood plots are related to ideas about love, marriage and courtship. In the book she also delves into how Hollywood films have portrayed the changes in courtship and marriage strategies over the 20th century. Her current project is a book about the Directors Guild of America which will cover the history of how directors became organized in this country as well as the history of the organization itself.

As far as what kinds of movies she enjoys, Dr. Wexman prefers all kinds. She has recently become interested in Iranian and Indian films. She co-taught an honors core course in Indian cinema. She found this to be a rewarding experience as she learned a great deal about this genre of international film. She feels that the popularity of DVDs has made Indian films and others more accessible and understandable to their audiences. Though she has branched out to certain aspects of global film, her main focus of research has been in American film. She has, however, she written a film history book which focused on all global films.

As an Honors College Fellow, her main advice to students is get as much as you can out of your courses, to attend regularly, and ask questions. She feels it is important to enjoy being a student and to take full advantage of the opportunities available here at UIC.

## Did You Buy Your Tickets Yet?

**Scholarship Show - March 4th and 5th**

**Honors Ball - March 13**

# An American in Japan: The Need to Study Abroad

by Dan Sevcik

13 hours later and the familiar landscape of home turned into something completely awry. A simple plan and a passion for adventure lead you to want to discover something completely different. As the familiar roar of jet engine breaks wakes you from your seemingly endless daydream you are already heading off of the plane and onto the crisp and clean hallways of Narita Airport. "Welcome to Tokyo" is what greets you in English before the familiar shapes of your native language turn into something completely different. You don't know whether to be deathly afraid or excited as the friendly confines of the airport give way to the real foreign adventure. Boarding the shuttle bus headed to Tokyo you realize that everything is strange. No more friends and acquaintances, large houses and open shopping malls. No, you are in a foreign land, a place that has been evolving and changing as fast as your little world without you even knowing it. A place that has existed outside of your normal circle of life and that will change your outlook on it completely.

If the culture shock does not overtake you first, Tokyo's initial excited craze will. Many ex-residents of Tokyo can easily sum up your entire experience as a "sensory overload." From the "neon forest" of Shinjuku to the auditory boom of Shibuya, Tokyo is truly a city made of cities. Tokyo is home to not only the busiest train station but also the busiest intersection in the world. The sheer energy of Tokyo is enough to make even the most hardcore ethnocentric into a true believer of "the outside world."

My experience in Tokyo has forever changed my outlook on life. The energy of the city and the complete difference in culture has caused me to change my habits back home. I take my shoes off at the entrance of the homes of others. I bow repeatedly while talking on my cell phone. I wonder why, since I returned home, that we don't have unique car names like the Mazda Bongo Friendee. But all of these small things pale in comparison to the amount that I learned of the language and culture.

Tokyo, Japan is not the only place in the world where one can see how different things can be from their hometown. Any sort of study abroad is imperative for today's modern American college student. Studying in a foreign country changes you in ways beyond imagination. From simply becoming more openly cultured to changing your everyday routine, studying outside of America is how you can learn that today's marketplace is no longer confined to the "States."

UIC offers a plethora of unique and adventurous locales to study at. From Africa to Asia you will be able to find any country that would suit your taste. Furthermore, you can modify your experience as you choose, from living with a host family or dorms to the type of locale you would go for. Apply now for study abroad as you begin the evolution into an international college student. For more information, visit the Study Abroad Office web site: [http://www.uic.edu/depts/spec\\_prog/studyabroad/](http://www.uic.edu/depts/spec_prog/studyabroad/)

## Planning your Undergraduate Courses

by Daniela Witkowski

As Honors students, it is common to experience some anxiety when planning your classes. You have

to worry about completing pre-professional requirements, major requirements, and the requirements of your college. And then there's worrying about getting into the classes, that you're going to get the professor from hell, about the hours you'll be taking each semester, and

much more. How is anyone supposed to be able to deal with this?

The answer lies in planning and getting advice. By making a flexible outline of classes you plan to take within your major, you make it possible to get advice from informed sources before you make a mistake you'll regret.

So, how do you make a plan? First, plot out what classes you want to take each semester. Make sure you take pre-requisites for your major early so that you can space more advanced courses throughout all your years. Plan on taking some elective or gen-eds along with major requirements each semester so you have variety and are not overwhelmed by major classes during one semester and have none another. This doesn't mean that you have to set all your classes in stone, but having a plan will let you verify what is good and what you might want to change

Once you have a simple plan, get advice, and lots of it. Get it from the Honors College advisors, undergraduate advisors from your college (like LAS advisors), from your major advisors, from UIC professional school admissions counselors, from other students going into your field, and from your professors. The more advice you get, the more informed you will be to make decisions that may affect your ability to get a job or into professional schools.

As a bio major, I've seen my LAS advisor and bio advisor both at least once a semester. They have helped to make sure I'm doing the right things to be a good candidate for dental school and also to complete my degree. People who are vital to pre-dental (biology) planning are Veronica Arreola (Bio advisor: 6-5315 or [via@uic.edu](mailto:via@uic.edu)), Alyson Kallas (Bio advisor: 5-5654 or

*Courses, cont. on page 7*

way that I liked to have them done. My mom would tell me, “Now Joe, you can’t judge a book by its cover. Give them a chance.” And of course, I didn’t want to; I was set in my ways and I was right. I mean, come on – what did my mom know? She didn’t have to sit by that kid...she got to go to work, and hang out with all of her cool adult friends, while I was stuck at my boring old school, sitting by the creepy kid, and not having any fun at all.

But, although it kills me to say it, my mom was right, yet again, as she has turned out to be on so many different things. Now, unfortunately, I did not learn my lesson throughout high school. Remember, I grew up in a town of 400 people; all we did was judge people by what our initial reactions were. That was the way to survive in a town where everyone knew your business, whether you knew who they were or not. The only thing to do was jump to conclusions about everyone around you. However, my mindset has changed. Moving to a community where there are more people in one building than there were in my entire town has forced me to wake up, and take my preschool lesson, and learn it all over again.

And boy, have I learned it. I have learned that, just because you appear to have something in common with a person on the outside, it sometimes does not work out no matter how hard you try. That person cannot be trusted, can hurt you, and can make you feel very down on yourself. However, you don’t see it, because you are still looking at the surface level – at how great the relationship is.

I have also learned that you severely hold yourself back if you do not take a step outside of your comfort zone. Fear holds us within the constraints of where we are, and will not make us available to move anywhere outside of it. This is when we judge people based on initial impressions; because it is easier to not talk to, or trust, the people or things that are not like us, or that are easily dismissed at the surface. We never have to put our emotions on the line, never learn how to be vulnerable with people. We keep ourselves bottled up from everyone and do not allow anyone to see us, because they may not like what they see.

Well folks, here is my message to you, so listen up. Yes, it is true, they may not like what they see. Being vulnerable always entails the risk of rejection. But should this risk of rejection keep you within your box, or your own little world? Will it make your life any easier to deal with? Because the flip side of rejection is complete, and unending acceptance. I know this fear; I have played this lottery many times. Do I open up as to what I am really thinking, who I really am, or do I hold it all back because it might hurt too much? I spent my first year and a half at this institution, holding myself back – not allowing anyone to get too close. I did not want to pay the price of rejection; it seemed too high to me. Finally, I took the

plunge. I began to talk about things that were going on in my life, things that had happened in my past, and began to share who I was on all levels of being. And you know what, I did have to face some rejection. It came with the situation. However, I have gained more insight and more unconditional love and support from people than I ever did standing within my own comfort zone. I learned the lesson that my mom taught me. If you judge a book by its cover, you never get to read the story inside. Could you imagine, throwing away a book that simply said **Advanced Calculus** on the cover, and actually contained a story with the enchantment of **Harry Potter** (or whatever trips your trigger) on the inside? If I had not taken that step, if I had not opened up my heart, and my mind, that is exactly what I would have done.

Now, there are a lot of you within this college. I do not know what you are all dealing with. I do not know if you are dealing with anything besides schoolwork for that matter, although my bet is that you are. I can only tell you what I have learned in my life, and hope that you might gain some type of insight into your own. Be vulnerable. It may be scary, it may not always work out for the best, but unless you open up and step outside of your comfort zone, you do not get to experience the true gems that some people really are. And if you are not dealing with anything – be open-minded about what other people might be going through. Be vulnerable with your ears, and always be open to hearing a story from a different point of view. You never know who may need to hear your voice, or listen to your story; someone may need encouragement, or support, or advice, or just a funny joke.

Because, lets face it, all of the books out there do not have the prettiest covers. But the text, the story, and the art behind each and every one of those books are priceless. Nothing can be compared to the value of a good story – whether it is created or straight from the life of another human.

Oh, and I honestly do not know anything about getting free laundry inside the residence halls...:)

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aekallas@uic.edu), and Judith Baxter (Pre-Dental advisor: 3-2527 or Baxter@uic.edu). Show them your plans, and then ask them when classes are offered when, who are good professors, and what classes are difficult to get into.

Some of your best resources are friends. Many will have already taken some of the classes you’re looking into. They will know about the good professors. Take advantage of the information they have gathered. They will want to keep you from making the same mistakes they did.

So the simple moral of the story is to make your plans, get advice, and then change your plans accordingly. This will not only make your life easier, but will allow you to enjoy your undergraduate years more.

# Spring Break at the Benches

by J. Criss

College students traditionally celebrate spring's revival of life with trips to trouble-free hotspots across the globe. However, a group of trailblazers named *Benefit* is spending its spring break here in Illinois, helping people affected by blood-related cancers experience their own life revivals.

*Benefit*, a team of friends from the University of Illinois at Chicago, has orchestrated a piano tour throughout northern Illinois to raise \$100,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Fundraiser head and concert pianist James Criss will perform a series of recitals composing the tour; proceeds from the tour, CD sales, sponsorships, and donations will contribute to *Benefit's* \$100,000 fundraising goal. Criss's recital locations include:

1. Fulton (IL) First Reformed Church: Monday, March 22 at 7 PM
2. Chicago (IL) Bethel Presbyterian Church: Thursday, March 25 at 7 PM
3. Waterman (IL) Presbyterian Church: Saturday, March 27 at 7 PM
4. DeKalb (IL) First United Methodist Church: Sunday, March 28 at 3 PM

As a not-for-profit and non-religious-affiliated organization geared toward "fighting blood-related cancers", The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has awarded more than \$280 million to research throughout its 53 years. Additionally, the Society offers a wide variety of programs and services in support of its mission to fight various blood-related cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. It is the world's largest volunteer health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education, and patient services, and is supported entirely by public contributions.

Be a part of *Benefit's* spring break by attending a recital and aiding people in need of LLS's services. Or, make an independent, tax-deductible donation to LLS.

For more information, please e-mail [isplayforChrist@hotmail.com](mailto:isplayforChrist@hotmail.com) or call 312-355-8663.

## UIC MOCK TRIAL ADVANCES TO NATIONALS

The nationally ranked UIC Mock Trial Team will once again represent UIC at the American Mock Trial Association's National Tournament in March. The team claimed one of the coveted bids to

the National Tournament by placing third at the Regional Tournament that took place in Joliet, IL on February 14-15. UIC maintained its reputation as a 'power-house' in AMTA by finishing the tournament with a sharp 6-2 record. The team faced a total of 28 other mock trial teams from the region and claimed victory over 26 universities including Northwestern, University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, Loyola, and DePaul. This win placed UIC among one of the six teams from the region that will advance to compete at the national level.

Two UIC mockers were recognized for their top-performance throughout the competition. Team co-captain, Neil Iyengar, won an Outstanding Attorney Award for playing a defense attorney, as well as an Outstanding Witness Award for playing a forensic pathologist. Karim Rajabali, a first-year mocker, received an Outstanding Attorney Award for playing a prosecution attorney.

"I am very excited to be representing UIC at Nationals again this year," commented Iyengar. "Though there was certainly a difference between the style of Will County and Cook County judges, our team adapted well and came through with a strong record this weekend. This is a very talented and dedicated team, and I am confident that our success will carry through at Nationals."

Judges from each round praised UIC for its professional courtroom demeanor, well-versed knowledge of trial techniques, and creative case theories. The team has been meeting a minimum of six hours a week since October to refine trial techniques and develop case theory. In this year's case, the State of Midlands v. Michael W. Harmon, the defendant is a professional hockey player accused of murder for hitting another player in the head with his hockey stick. Each team is required to present both sides of the case twice over the course of four rounds, and must focus on preparing attorney and witness roles.

UIC is one of the few competitive mock trial teams in the nation that is student-led. On Tuesdays, the team meets on campus in a classroom setting to study trial techniques and develop case theories. On Thursdays, the team meets downtown at the Daley Center with its attorney advisors, Judge A.C. Cunningham and Attorney Patrick Reardon who critique the team's work and refine its skills. Cunningham and Reardon's guidance and dedication to the team is a great contribution to the team's success and reputation in AMTA.

This year's team is headed up by captains Neil Iyengar (Senior, Anthropology/Biology) and Ana Petrovic (Junior, English). Members are: Brett Geiger (Senior, Political Science), Rita Greggio (Senior, Criminal Justice), Ananth Iyengar (Freshman, Political Science), Hemant Mehta (Senior, Biology/Math), Karim Rajabali (Sophomore, Finance), Nirav Shah (Senior, Political Science), Ian Williams (Senior, Political Science), and Yelena Zusis (Sophomore, Economics).

The team has received overwhelming moral and financial support the past two years from the UIC community. The team would not be able to participate in these mock trial tournaments without the generous donations provided by the Criminal Justice Department, Honors College, LAS, Provost Tanner, and Tau Phi Sigma. Additionally, the team is provided a tremendous amount of moral support by UIC faculty, students, and alumni who send the team notes of encouragement and attend competitions.

The national tournament will be held in Richmond, Kentucky on March 12-14. If the team places at the top of this competition, it will advance to the National Championship Tournament in April.

For more information regarding the UIC Mock Trial Team, visit their website at [www.uic.edu/depts/pols/mock\\_trial/](http://www.uic.edu/depts/pols/mock_trial/) or e-mail team captains Ana Petrovic at [apetro5@uic.edu](mailto:apetro5@uic.edu) or Neil Iyengar at [niyeng1@uic.edu](mailto:niyeng1@uic.edu).