

The Ampersand &

UIC Honors College *November/December 2005*

A Taste of India: Honors College Luncheon 2005

By Sameera Guttikonda and Nisha Khadiwala

The smell of butter chicken was detectable even from a distance. This year's Honors College Luncheon cuisine was, as the smell revealed, Indian. Catered by Sizzle India Devon, the menu ranged from samosas to mattar paneer, and it was as delicious as it was popular. In fact, an estimated 300 people came out to enjoy the complimentary Luncheon provided by the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB).

Nina Bhupathiraju, a fourth year biology and psychology major, says, "Not only was the food good, but the entire ambiance was enjoyable." The setting for the luncheon, held in the Honors College Quiet Study room, became an Indian cafeteria of sorts, with saris draped on the wall, and classical Indian music punctuating the conversation.

Although many of the people who attended the luncheon were already familiar with Indian cuisine, there were many people who were trying this type of food for the first time. Second year premed student Mike Yip says, "I've never had this kind of Indian food before, but I thought it was really good." It was a time for many to experience some of the diversity that UIC and the Honors College has to offer.

Every year, the Honors College provides its students, fellows, and faculty with the opportunity to become familiar with one another in an easygoing setting. It has become a tradition to have the theme of the luncheon vary from year to year, and represent the different populations of UIC.

ADDED BONUS:

Food Dictionary

Samosa: Fried triangular potato stuffed pastry

Naan: Clay oven baked flat bread

Dal Makhani: Lentils and kidney beans cooked in gravy

Mattar Paneer: Cheese cubes and peas in a cream sauce

Palao: Rice cooked with seasonings and vegetables



"I'll try one of each!"

ASB Auction a Huge Success!

By Krystyna Wesolowski

Alternative Spring Break is a student run organization that sends student groups out to volunteer across the country during winter and spring break. ASB is dedicated to community service and experiential learning. Groups of students led by two site leaders, work together with volunteer organizations address social and environmental issue such as hunger, homelessness, conservation, HIV/AIDS and other illnesses.

ASB holds an annual auction every year to raise funds for the student trips. Trip expenses include transportation, fuel money, lodgings, and food. ASB members ask for donations from individuals as well as from local and corporate businesses. Donations are made in the form of services, gift certificates, items, and money.

This year the auction took place on October 26th, with an international theme of "Around the World in 80 Days." The Auction consists of a silent portion, which took place in 611 CCC, and the Live Auction, which was held in 603 CCC. This year, just as many years before, former Honors College Associate Dean/math professor Jeff Lewis, presided over the Live Auction. Overall, ASB earned over \$6,500.00 which will be allocated for both the winter and spring trips.

One important contributor to this year's auction was Professor Emeritus Louis Berman. Professor Berman donated a vast array of items given to him by Laurette Kirstein, the former Head of the Office for Foreign Student-Staff Affairs who passed away this year. Throughout her years in office, Ms. Kirstein received many gifts from international students with whom she became acquainted. Half of the proceeds of Prof. Berman's donations fund the ASB trips, and the other half will fund new books for the UIC Daley Library.

This winter, ASB is sending out three volunteer trips to help with:

- 1) **Encouraging and educating youths** who are in need of good examples, direction, and communication,
- 2) **interacting with HIV/AIDS families and patients** by delivering meals, assisting with duties, and interacting with these individuals,
- 3) **Providing Hurricane Disaster Relief** to areas and people affected by Hurricane Rita.

For more information about the trips or for applications, please visit the ASB website at: asbuic.org
For further details please contact Barath Badrinathan (President) bbadri1@uic.edu, Jennifer Remot (Site development) jremdt1@uic.edu, Eugene Aquino (Senior Advisor & Site-Leader Trainer) EugeneJr2@yahoo.com, **Jennifer Kosco** (Faculty advisor) jkosco@uic.edu.



Honors College staff members Kathy Stauffer and Elizabeth Bruno-Gilbert decide on auction items

A Look Back on my First Semester

By Steve Kotsiris

Looking back on my first semester in college, it's hard to believe it has gone by so fast. I came to UIC not really knowing what to expect and unsure of how college works. Spending my middle and high school years at a relatively small school (250 in my graduating class), I was told that adjusting to the size of UIC was going to be a difficult task, but being in the Honors College really helped me with the transition, making me feel like I was an important part of UIC rather than just another face in the crowd. However, nothing has been as beneficial to my transition into college as getting involved. The best advice I could give to anyone that wants to know how to make the transition into college more easily is GET INVOLVED. You will meet so many great people through clubs and student organizations, and there is certainly a club for everyone here. Diversity is probably one of UIC's greatest advantages over other schools. There is so much to learn from others. Your eyes will open wide to cultures you previously knew nothing about, which leads me to my second piece of advice: Be open-minded and ready to learn.

The material I've learned here reaches beyond academic information learned in the classroom. I've learned how to "survive" in college and in the real world. Granted I'm not in the "real world" yet, this is the first time in my life that I have been completely independent and free to make whatever choices I see fit to benefit me in the future. This has sometimes proved to be an overwhelming chore for me, and suddenly I have to think about my actions a little bit more, but I have never experienced a more rewarding feeling than the one I get when I make the right choice on my own.

I've also learned how to deal with people, especially teachers, and situations that I've never encountered before. You have to make yourself known to the teacher—stand out in the crowd of 400 others in the lecture hall—it will pay off. You can't be afraid to approach a teacher or advisor about a problem you have, that's what they're there for, take advantage of it.

The final item that I have found as an important necessity in college is time management. Back in high school I used to laugh at the idea of time management, and I'm definitely paying for it now. Managing your time and not procrastinating (as I often do) will help ensure an easier and much less stressful experience. It helps to write down everything you have to do, prioritize your schedule, and set up a plan to get your work done. Once you can do this well, you should never find yourself scrambling the night before a deadline, four papers due, pulling an all-nighter, and in the end hoping for the best.

Keeping all this in mind, I have one final piece of advice: Your college years will be credited by you and your friends as the best four years of your life so HAVE FUN!

HC Announcements

Have you noticed the new format of the Honors College announcements?

Now we've added color and links!

Be sure to look for the daily announcements in your email.

UIC 101: Welcome to College Life!

By Pratik Shah

To tell you the truth, when I first came to UIC, I was terrified. Seriously. A new school, new city, and new people, it was like nothing I had ever experienced before. It wasn't that I lived in the middle of nowhere, but the suburbs are a lot different than city life. In the suburbs, you see the same old sights and hear the same sounds everyday, but in college, it is totally different. I met people who I haven't seen in years and it is highly likely you'll meet someone new everyday, who you may even become friends with. The city is always full of things to do no matter when and where you are, regardless of your interests, which is new for first-year students who think college is just about studying and taking tests. Finally, UIC, in particular, is a surreal experience for any new college student regardless of who you are or where you come from, whether it is a small town down south or a big city like Chicago.

Not only was UIC a complete shock to the normal high school life many new freshmen are used to, but if I had to describe UIC in one word it would be diversity. Think about it. Have you ever realized how diverse UIC is? I see people from every background, country, and religion in college, which is a giant melting pot of people, something many freshmen students will see for the first time ever. Within a week at UIC, I made friends with so many people from different backgrounds and places around the country, and the best thing about it is that they all have their own stories and ideas to share, which is a great experience especially for college freshmen who are taking a new step in their lives and are ready to explore what college has to offer to them, besides knowledge and education.

Not only do the students make the new experience of college life good for me, but also the

teachers. The teachers at UIC are dedicated to what they teach. They teach because they love to do it, not for any other reason. It is this love for teaching that professors have that makes freshmen students, like myself, realize that they want to help us, which is a big relief for students who are sometimes reluctant to ask the instructor for help, especially those teachers they don't know to well.

The last major change I thought would occur would be the classes. I have heard of college students spending hours and hours doing homework and staying up all night and it made me wonder... will I ever have a social life in college and will I be able to keep up with the other students? I began to realize that many freshmen students have the same questions floating around unanswered, but the fact remains that everyone is new to the college game, and that we all are going through this together, so there is no need to worry. As long as you have fun, do well in school and make the most out of your time at UIC, college will be a breeze! UIC was a unique first-year college experience for me and was not what I had expected but a lot better.

**Want to see your words in
the next Ampersand?**

We want to hear from you!

Please contact

**Liat Shetret: lshetr1@uic.edu
Jennifer Kosco: jkosco@uic.edu**

**The next deadline for your
submissions is January 20th.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

UIC's Lincoln Academy
Student Laureate: Puja Modi
by James Criss

While sitting in the very same room where Abraham Lincoln gave his famous "house divided" speech, Honors College senior Puja Modi represented UIC as the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate. This honor is given to one graduating senior from each of the 48 universities in Illinois. Taking place on Saturday, October 22nd, the day included a one-hour ceremony followed by an elegant reception at the Historic Governor's Mansion in Springfield. The distinguished speaker for the award ceremony was Judy Erwin, Executive Deputy Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Ms. Erwin explained how these students are chosen by the chief executive officers of their universities based on their overall excellence in academics and extracurricular activities.

Puja, a senior majoring in music and philosophy, has definitely excelled in both of those areas. After spending time singing in a number of the choirs at UIC, she decided that there needed to be a vocal jazz ensemble, so she founded one. Lake Affects, as they have come to be known, have performed under Puja's direction in many concerts and venues over the years, from UIC Choir concerts to shows at the south campus Caribou Coffee. Puja has also taken her love of jazz music a step further by applying for a Fulbright Program in Sweden, where she proposed studies involving jazz and folk music. In addition to following her personal dreams through extracurricular activities, she also helps mentor others dreams while serving as a Resident Assistant on South Campus. Stop by and see her in Thomas Beckham Hall if you're there; she might even make pancakes for you!



Puja's family was on hand to watch her receive her award



L to R: Puja Modi, Judy Erwin, James Criss



Puja after receiving her award

The American Devil vs. Fundamentalist Islam: A critical analysis of a not so critical book – Book Review

By Liat Shetret

Osama bin Laden charges America with a long list of sins and a blasphemous lifestyle. In turn he calls for Muslims to unite against the American Devil that is contaminating the purity of Islam as a religion and lifestyle. Bernard Lewis, in his book *The Crisis of Islam*, launches his introduction by establishing bin Laden's identity and the notion that his list of grievances against the United States is rooted in history. In the introduction of the book, Lewis constructs an initial link between Osama bin Laden as a representative of the religion of Islam and George W. Bush as the representative of the United States of America. This link is a mere peek into what grows into a full list of the author's biases that affect the reader throughout the book.

Suggesting that bin Laden is a representative of Islam in the same way that Bush is a representative of America is a false parallel. I fail to understand how democratic elections place bin Laden as a Muslim leader. Lewis stipulates a dichotomous and analogous relationship between Islam and the religion's natural leader bin Laden. By doing this, Lewis primes the reader to view the historical narrative with the assumption that the nature of the historical development must eventually lead to a religion based on acts of terrorism with a radical and militant leader. This of course can be factually disputed, because bin Laden does not represent Islam as a religion, as a majority, or as a leader of a nation, state or country, and Islam is in no way equivalent to, or interchangeable with terrorism.

The questions of how Islam is defined and who is a Muslim were addressed in the first chapter of the book. Lewis uses the history and worldwide spread of Islam to create and define an entity both in

geographic and historical terms. Addressing the roots and founders of a group, any group, is imperative to defining who it is today, but I wonder if Islam's definition should be solely based on history and grievances of the past. The levels of complexity involved in defining Islam urge us to be weary of crude generalizations and assumptions that tap into schemas that are most likely based on mainstream populist mass media and simplifications. From reading the definition of Islam by Lewis, I feel that he has oversimplified Islam a great deal.

Considering the bloody past and present circumstances that have erroneously become synonymous with Islam and Muslims, I was anticipating a critical and careful analysis of Muslims and their way of life across the entire spectrum of faith and culture, but was disappointed to read that Lewis had adopted a mainstream definition based on history and extremism. As I reached the end of the chapter I realized that none of what I had perceived Islam to be was introduced or discussed in the book. When describing Islam, Lewis uses other religions such as Christianity and Judaism to explore similarities and differences. The juxtaposition between Islam and other religions, as well as Islam and the development of states, along with Islam contrasted with modern states, insinuates that the differences between "us" and "them" run deeper than one could have ever imagined. Furthermore Lewis assumes that some states are inherently "right" while some are "lacking." That is, he suggests that most states are rightfully developing into modern states, while others, are lacking behind.

Defining a religion by what it is not, when compared to other relative notions, does not give it meaning or an identity that is not based on negative pretenses or preconceived notions that may or may not be based on factual accounts

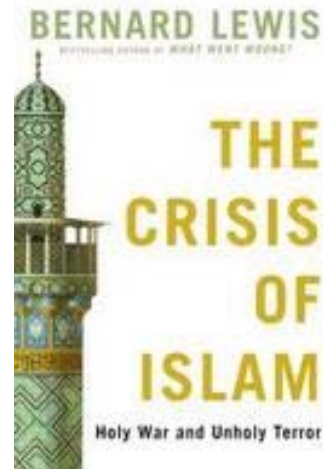
I was anticipating Lewis's confirmation of the collectivist positive aspects of the religion and an acknowledgement of the importance and role of the five pillars of Islam. Finally, I expected to read about a world in which religion is intertwined into daily life and not manipulated to breed terrorists, but rather to maintain a way of life that is based on a strong tie to faith and ideology. I was expecting to read about unifying Muslim symbols such as the Hijab and its meaning, or the unique Arabic language in its many dialects along with other traditions and nuances of culture. I was hoping to hear a positive spin on the possibility of life with the spirituality of Ramadam, and the idea that a devout and internal sense of unshakeable belief in God and the values of Islam as embodied in the Q'uran exist among Muslims.

The cultural and religious affirmations to which I thought was a Muslim, and how I had perceived Islam, as they had been set by my experiences with Muslims in many different countries and here at UIC, was only received when I saw the fervor and positive passion in a classmates eyes at the description of her life as a Muslim. I had to wonder why Lewis did not choose to capture the definition of Islam as that light I had seen in this young woman's eyes as she described what it meant to her to be a Muslim. I was waiting to hear her mention her historical roots and fundamental background as primed by Lewis, but was comforted to hear that life as a Muslim and the definition of Islam was not limited to cold historical notions or a minority radical group of people who choose to use Islam as a tool for political gain.

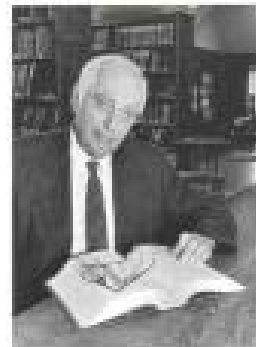
The perception of who is a Muslim and what is Islam is clearly relative to ones relation to the religion and own interpretations of the Q'uran. God has laws that need to be followed, and these can be interpreted to create love and tolerance or hate and

terrorism. The fundamental error in analysis seems to be the black or white perspective Lewis draws upon throughout the book when analyzing history, Islam or terrorism.

Final Analysis: two stars for terrific articulation of skewed content.



Cover of *The Crisis of Islam*



Author Bernard Lewis

HCAB Bake Sale

By Jessica Sheng

The members of the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) held a bake sale on Monday, November 21st and Tuesday, November 22nd from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Student Center East Link. Board members baked and sold a variety of goodies from all kinds of cookies to brownies, cupcakes and rice krispie treats. The money will be put towards lowering the cost of tickets for the Honors College Ball, which will be held in March. Thank you to everyone who came by and helped us out!

Here's the recipe for the popular cheesecake swirl brownies that were sold!

Cheesecake Swirl Brownies

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) of butter or margarine
- 2 bars (2 oz each) of bakers chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 1/4 cups of granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 3/4 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 package (8 oz) of cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Melt the butter and chocolate in a saucepan over low heat, keep stirring until smooth.
3. Cool the chocolate mixture to room temperature.
4. Stir in 1 3/4 cups of sugar, beat in 3 eggs, and stir in the flour.
5. Spread the mixture into a greased 13 x 9 in baking pan
6. Beat the cream cheese and 1/2 cup of sugar into a small mixer bowl.
7. Beat in 1 egg and the vanilla extract
8. Pour the cream cheese mixture over the chocolate in the pan and create swirls between

- the light and dark with a butter knife.
9. Put in preheated oven for 35-38 minutes.
10. Cool completely on rack.



HCAB Member Jessica Sheng at Bake Sale Table



"Which cookies should we buy?"

Chicago's BEST Pizza

by Jyoti Shenai



Last month, 166 Honors College students participated in an online survey on the "Best Chicago Pizza." In general, Chicagoans are passionate about their pizza. From the results, it can be concluded that the UIC Honors College students selected Giordano's Pizza as their favorite Chicago pizza. Coming in second place is Lou Malnati's, and California Pizza Kitchen came in third. The percentage break down is listed below, followed by several of the comments that were left as to why you chose your favorite pizza. Thank you to all of those who participated in this survey. All this writing about pizza makes me HUNGRY!

Giordano's Pizza	33.13%
Lou Malnati's Pizza	15.06%
California Pizza Kitchen	12.65%
Other	10.24%
Pizza Hut	9.04%
Pizzeria Uno	6.02%
Gino's East	6.63%
Connie's Pizza	3.61%
Aurelio's Pizza	1.2%
Sbarro	1.2%
Domino's Pizza	1.2%

"Lou Malnati's is the best of Chicago because the tomatoes taste fresher and the crust is richer than the others."

"California Pizza Kitchen comes up with the most original flavors for each of their pizzas. Each pizza is unique, its not bland or boring, the ingredients are fresh, wholesome, and delicious. Their pizzas elevate the low position of pizza in American Society, instead of being viewed as greasy, messy, and unappetizing now pizza can be viewed as colorful, original, and mouth-watering."

"Aurelio's rules! The original location in Homewood is the best; the franchises don't use the same recipe & it shows."

"Connie's pizza fills you up with 1 to 2 slices. Plus they deliver their pizzas hot and fresh from their oven equipped trucks. It's truly one of Chicago's best pizzas."

"California Pizza Kitchen takes "pizza" to another level. They are brave in being able to combine any kind of foods in making their pizzas. People can order anything from barbecue chicken pizza to Thai pizza. It's not just a pizza when you order a pizza from California Pizza Kitchen"

"Everything is divided into two categories in my life. One half is life, which involves school, family, friends, hobbies, etc. The other half is pizza. Believe me when I say that I am one of the biggest pizza fanatics on the planet. And Giordano's Pizza, is by far the best. The rich and warm mozzarella, the slightly sweet tomato sauce, the crust that's slightly crunchy, all these aspects put the other pizza places to shame. I thank God for bringing me to Chicago, where a Giordano's is located only a five-minute walk away. Looking forward to Giordano's pizza keeps me going and motivated, it's heaven in your mouth."

"The quality of the ingredients as well as the taste sets it aside from the rest." (Giordano's)

"Edwardo's has the most delicious stuffed spinach. They always have baby basil plants growing in their windows, so maybe that's why..."

"La Villa Pizzeria (Waveland and Pulaski). They're so good because they spice their sauce just perfectly, and they don't put too much cheese on the pizza."

"The texture of the bread, the quality of the ingredients. Uno's has been around for a long time, they know what they're doing. Also, the restaurant has a great vibe to it."

"It's so yummy and delicious!" (Gino's East Pizza)

"Gigio's (in Uptown). This pizzeria is a small pizzeria in the heart of Uptown right off the El, red line. The pizza comes from a family recipe back in Sicily (hearsay from my brother who experienced pizza all over Italy and asked the owner when he never found pizza that compared to Gigio's back in Italy). This pizza is great! From the toppings to the sauce filled with all the spices, this is truly the best pizza I've ever tasted. All other chains have grown too big and have strayed away from originality! This has remained a small pizzeria for many years and truly caters to the hearts and especially to the stomachs of Chicagoans. Although it isn't well known those who go for their first time will always go back for more!"

Thank you to Joshua Buss for his help with the online survey.

Chicago Events



By Judy Liu

The holiday season is a time of tradition, and Chicago is no exception. This winter, be sure to check out some of the city's annual events.

Ice Skating at Millennium Park

The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink is now officially open for its fifth winter season since Millennium Park opened in 2001!

Open until March 12, 2006

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Free admission, \$7 to rent skates

Contact: 312-742-5222

Marshall Field's State Street Holiday Window Display

Since 1895, the Marshall Field's State Street Store has been famous for its elaborate holiday storytelling window displays. A true Chicago tradition, this year the windows will unfold the classic story of Cinderella.

Marshall Field's State Street Store

Through January 9, 2006

Free

Daley Plaza (Washington and Dearborn Streets)

85-foot Holiday tree composed of 100 smaller Balsam Fir trees

Tree will remain up until January 7, 2006

Santa's House

Hours:

Through December 23: 11am-8pm

December 24: 11am-4pm

Children and their families are invited to take
and purchase pictures with Santa

Note: Santa takes a break every day from
3pm-4pm

Christkindlmarket

Modeled after the famous Nuremberg Christmas market, which dates back to 1545, the Christkindlmarket celebrate its 10th anniversary, offering European holiday ornaments, Bavarian glass blowing, and holiday treats. Live music by a German-American folk band will also be provided in the Festival tent in the evenings Thursday through Sunday.

-Hours:

Through December 22:

Sunday –Thursday 11am-8pm; Friday &
Saturday 11am-9pm

Contact: German American Chamber of Commerce
of Chicago, 312-644-4662 or
www.christkindlmarket.com

All of the holiday events at Daley Plaza are free
admission

Zoolights

With lights, a laser show, ice carvers, and of course, Santa, the Lincoln Park Zoo welcomes guests to the annual event. December 3rd and 4th is Latino Culture weekend, with music, special crafts, and a Spanish-speaking Santa. Count down to Happy Zoo Year with animals from 5pm-9pm on December 31- Open 5-9pm Friday and Saturday through December 11 and every day December 16 - January 1

Winter WonderFest

Located in Festival Hall of Navy Pier, the LaSalle Bank's Winter WonderFest will feature hundreds of decorated trees, a main town square, and decorations. Activities include ice-skating, large-scale inflatable games, a bungee run and other games. Santa and his elves will also be present for children at Santa's Holiday Village.

Hours: Sunday – Thursday 10am-
7:30pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-9:30pm

Admission: \$10 before December 22,
\$12 December 23 – January 7. Add \$2 to include
ice-skating. Coupons for \$3 will be available at
LaSalle Bank ATM's. Contact: 312-595-PIER
(7437)

New Year's Eve and Day Celebrations

Celebrate the end of 2005 and welcome 2006 with the annual New Year's Eve fireworks. Both Grant Park and Navy Pier will host separate shows choreographed to the same music and displayed simultaneously.

Grant Park

Recorded music starts at 10 p.m at
Buckingham Fountain at Congress and
Columbus.

312-744-3315

Navy Pier

New Year's Eve fireworks will be
presented at 12 a.m. Navy Pier will also
present a New Year's Day show at 6 p.m.
312-595-PIER (7437)

Polar Bear Swim – Jan 1

Daley's Sports Festival – Dec 27-29

Concert Review: Audioslave

By Aaditi Dubale

Audioslave came to the UIC Pavilion on Monday, November 7th. The concert was well-attended and well-appreciated.

As is the case with most of the concerts I have been to, this concert improved as time went on. *30 Seconds to Mars* opened the show at 7PM. The lead singer, Jared Leto, clearly understood his place as the opening band and acknowledged as much to the crowd, thanking them for even listening. The audience was respectfully receptive to their performance especially after Leto jumped off the stage with a microphone to wander through the people as far back as the center of the main floor. *30 Seconds to Mars* also tried to spark interest by being available to autograph CDs and merchandise in the concourse after their performance. Overall, I did not find their music particularly noteworthy, but it was cool that the lead singer of Chavelle joined Leto for a song.

Seether played next for about 35 minutes. As far as I could see from the balcony, Seether received a warmer reception. I lightly recognized one of their songs. While I would guess that their performance was average for them, it was clear that some audience members were at the show more for them than for Audioslave.

Audioslave rocked hard for a solid hour and forty-five minutes. The lead guitarist's mother introduced the band from behind a screen; that in itself was immensely entertaining. In addition to playing sing-along hits such as "Be Yourself," and "Like a Stone," other songs included "Out of Exile" and "The Worm." About halfway through their set, Audioslave played songs from their respective previous bands which included: Soundgarden's "Spoonman" and "Fell on Black Days," and Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in the Name" and

"Testify." The blast from the past was particularly enjoyable for the audience. The best part of their performance was the beginning of the encore. Chris Cornell, Audioslave's lead singer, sat on a chair in the front of the stage and sang and played acoustic solo. Hearing him sing "Black Hole Sun" by himself live was especially fantastic. Eventually, the rest of the band joined Cornell halfway through "I Am the Highway." On the whole, Audioslave is an excellent band live.

Kanye West: Chicago's Star-Rapper at UIC

By Zina Alkafaji

On the night of Monday, November 14, Kanye West returned to his hometown of Chicago, gracing the UIC Pavilion with his lyrical beats. Recent American Idol winner Fantasia performed the opening act, setting the scene with a gospel James Brown-like presentation. Tension and anxiety built as fans eagerly waited during the intermission for the hottest hip-hop artist of the moment. Finally, thirty minutes later, Kanye himself appeared on stage dressed in a pink suit and sporting white-rimmed shades, indefinitely boasting a splash of ice around his neck. Among the guest appearances was the smooth R&B artist Common who performed his hit "I Used to Love Her."

The "Touch the Sky" tour featured a dynamic show featuring a native-Chicago DJ and a strings quartet playing from behind a sheer curtain, a concept unique to conventional hip hop shows and an aspect West has harped on as being the first to introduce it into hip hop. The simple stage props included a microphone with two backup singers,

one of whom was Kanye's cousin, and a bench which served as both a foot stool and a seat for the rapper during his acts. The utilitarian approach taken during the show allowed the true feelings of the songs to shine through.

Another refreshing feature of the show was West's blunt lyrics which discuss issues that many artists in the genre don't care to touch upon, such as the unnecessary need for material acquisition. The crowd was energetic and enthusiastic as they sang along to most of the radio hits, in addition to some die-hard fans who knew every song by heart. The show was inspiring and raw, and I left the show still humming and singing to Common and Kanye's hit "Go." Overall, my review of the concert would have to award Kanye with a big two thumbs up.



Kanye egging his fans on

HCAB Ampersand Committee

Shetret, Liat, Committee Chair
Dubale, Aaditi
Guttikonda, Sameera
Jahedi, Saleh

Thank you to those who contributed their time to The Ampersand (in alphabetical order):

Alkafaji, Zina
Boyle, Liz
Buss, Joshua
Cheng, Michael
Criss, James
Dubale, Aaditi
Guttikonda, Sameera
Huang, Jessica
Kalder, Alaine
Khadiwala, Nisha
Kosiris, Steve
Liu, Judy
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Sapozhnikov, Victor
Selan, Daniel
Shahid, Hafsa
Shenai, Jyoti
Sheng, Jessica
Shroff, Monica

A special thank you to our advisor ***Jennifer Kosco***.

Questions? Comments? Interested in writing for The Ampersand? Please email Liat Shetret at: Lshetr1@uic.edu or Jennifer Kosco at: Jkosco@uic.edu

Congratulations Chicago White Sox: 2005 World Series Champions!

By Pratik Shah

The possibility that another Chicago sports team would become national champions was a dream since the "Jordan Years," but on October 26, 2005 the Chicago White Sox became the baseball champions of the world. After 88 years of waiting to win a World Series championship, the Sox capped off their victory by sweeping the Houston Astros 4-0.

Although the Sox started the season off with a rough start, fans never believed it would have ever come down to this. UIC freshmen pre-med student, Amar Dodda, a New York Yankees fan, gave his opinion of the Sox's season as, "Although I am not happy that they won and even though I still think that they are not the best team in the league, they really showed what they are made of and played some great games. They won some miraculous games in the playoffs." Even the players were in disbelief as they stormed Houston's Minute Maid Park after the victory in jubilation and astonishment. Chicago White Sox general manager, Ozzie Guillen said in glee that, "I'm here because I wanted to do this, bring emotion to Chicago," in reaction to the victory that brought Sox fans across the city to the city center.

Many people wonder how the White Sox came to be where they are now: World Series champs. Although the season was good, I believe the playoffs were the key, however an interview with a true die-hard Sox fan gave me the real deal behind the legacy that we all know of: North Central College sophomore, Cregen McMinn. Cregen said, as quoted, "I have been a Sox fan for as long as I could open my eyes." Cregen was in total euphoria and felt so happy that he didn't even need to pick on Cubs fans anymore! With such a fan at hand, I decided to

get my views of what he thought gave the Sox such amazing victories which had been absent for the last 88 years. "Their ability to get the clutch hit gave them an edge over the Astros, who unfortunately left too many guys on base during key situations.

For the future outlook on this remarkable team, the Sox should sign Konerko back for another chance at the pennant, however I predict that the Cleveland Indians will give the windy city team a hard time next season. When asked how he felt about the city's responses to the Sox's win, Cregen gave a chuckle and said, "I thought the city had a great reaction to the victory. Tons of people showed up for the parade and many Cubs fans, too many for my liking, actually supported the Sox in the playoffs." So there you have it: told by a true Sox fan.

Lets look at how the stunning playoff season took the Chicago White Sox on a thrill of a lifetime. The Sox started on the road of their soon-to-be victorious series against the Boston Red Sox, who they smashed in a 3-0 series win to gain the rights of winning the American League Division Series, however the games had just begun. Their next opponent, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim gave them a shell-shock with their own win in Game Two, but believe it or not, that didn't stop the Sox. They took the next 3 games at hand and left the west coast with the Central Series Championship title under their belts. At this time Soxtober, as it was called throughout Chicago, was in full swing as anticipation of the team heading to the World Series took effect and the high-flying team from Chi-town was heading to Houston to see what it was like to have a chance to win a World Series after such a long time. Four games later, the newspapers around the nation

read "A Night to Remember," "Rainmakers," and "Windy City Flying High," to commemorate the team that celebrated their season with champagne and singing to their new team song, "Don't Stop Believin' by the band "Journey!" Not only was it the new team song, but it was also sung in the post-game party by Journey's lead singer, Steve Perry himself.

Although the victory took place in Houston, the parties erupted in Chicago, from sports bars to college dorm rooms. The White Sox were welcomed by a die-hard group of fans at Midway Airport on October 27 and by their own parade, which wound through the south side of the city, even past UIC. Not only did the students get a chance to see a great home team win, but also got to witness history in the making. Congratulations Chicago White Sox, 2005 World Series Champions!



Sox manager Ozzie Guillen leads the victory celebration



The Sox celebrate after winning game 3 of the World Series against the Houston Astros on Oct. 25, 2003.



White Sox players enjoying the festive atmosphere

Photo Album



HCSE cellists at the Premier Concert on 11/22



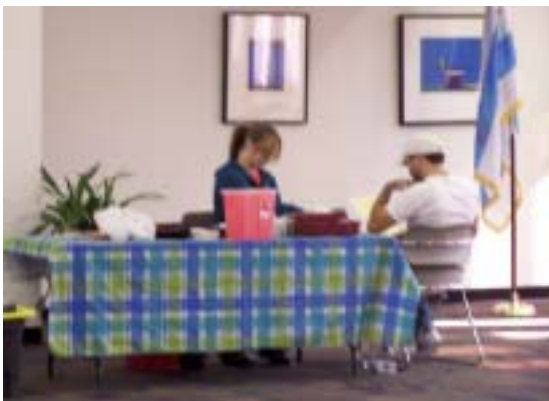
ASB President Barath Badrinathan, Advisor Jennifer Kosco & Sr. Advisor Eugene Aquino at the ASB Auction



Students enjoying the luncheon on 11/9



Good food & good conversation at the HCAB luncheon



HCAB Blood Drive on 11/21



So many choices at the HCAB Bake Sale!

Photo Album



Michael Cheng gives till it hurts at the HCAB-sponsored blood drive



Barath Badrinathan & Jennifer Remot decorate for the ASB Auction



Professor Roy Plotnick & Dean Madia waiting in line at the Luncheon



Volunteering at the Blood Drive brings HCAB close together!



The bidding was fast & furious at the ASB Auction!



Making sure there is enough for everyone...

Diwali: The Celebration of Lights

By Pratik Shah

Many know about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, but how much do people know about Diwali. Diwali (dee-wah-lee) is the "Celebration of Lights" in the Indian culture, which was, celebrated this year on November 1st. Diwali, which leads us into Truth and Light, is celebrated on a nation-wide scale on Amavasya, the 15th day of the dark fortnight of the Hindu month of Aasho (a month that starts in mid-October and ends in mid-November), every year. It symbolizes the age-old culture of our country, which teaches us to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge. Every house mightily, the hut of the poor or the mansion of the rich is alit with the orange glow of twinkling divas (small earthen lamps as shown in picture) to welcome Lasksmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. Multi colored Rangoli designs (as shown in picture), floral decorations, and fireworks lend splendor and grandeur to this festival with joy, mirth, and happiness in the ensuring year. This festival is celebrated on a grand scale in almost all the regions of India and is looked upon mainly as the beginning of the New Year. As such blessings of Lakshmi, the celestial consort of Lord Vishnu, are invoked with prayers. Even countries such as Thailand, Siam, and Malaya celebrate this festival but in their own ways. Diwali, or more commonly known as Deepavali, is very enthusiastically celebrated for five continuous days and each day has its significance with a number of myths, legends, and beliefs.

The first day is called Dhanteras, a day set aside to worship Lakshmi. "Lakshmi-Puja" (a Puja is a religious ceremony to God) is performed in the evening when tiny divas are lighted to drive away the shadows of evil spirits.

On the second day, Kali, the goddess of Strength is worshipped. This day also focuses on abolishing laziness and evil.

The third day of the festival of Diwali is the most important day of Lakshmi Puja, which is entirely devoted to the propitiation of Goddess Lakshmi. On this very day, the Sun enters its second courses and passes Libra, which is to have suggested the balancing of account books and their closings. It is due to this occurrence in which we have scales presenting the horoscope symbol of the Libra. Despite the fact that this day falls on an Amavasya day it is regarded as very auspicious. It is also said that Lord Mahavir attained "Nirvan" (nirvana) on this day.

The forth day, Padwa, is also observed as Annakoot meaning "mountain of food." This day is looked upon as the most auspicious day to start any new venture.

The fifth and final day of Diwali is known by the name "Bhaya-Duj." As the legend goes Yamraj, the God of Death, visited her sister, Yami, on this particular day. She put the auspicious tilak (ornamental mark between the two eyebrows) on his forehead, garlanded him and led him to her with special dishes. They both continued to eat sweets together. While departing, Yamraj gave her a special gift as a token of his love and in return Yami also gave him a lovely gift, which she made with her own hands. That day Yamraj announced that anyone who receives tilak from his sister will never be harmed. Since then this day is being observed as a symbol of love between sisters and brothers. It also became common for the brother to go to his sister's house to celebrate Bhaya-Duj, which is even in occurrence to this very day.

Diwali, on the whole has always been the festival with more social than religious connotations. It is a personal people-oriented festival where troubles are forgotten and families and friends meet, enjoy, and establish a world of closeness.



Above 1: Lighted Diya Above 2: Decorated Rangoli
Picture courtesy of matiyaptidar.com
courtesy of theholidayspot.com

Ramadan: A Time of Reflection and Rejuvenation

By S. Hafsa Shahid

For Muslims across the globe, moderate or traditional, *Ramadan* is a time of spiritual rejuvenation. The diverse aspect of this community-oriented month is no exception at UIC. At this time of year, students of this common faith—with ethnicities ranging anywhere from Indonesian, Turkish to Pakistani and Irish, amongst *many* others—join together in prayers and a modest feast—the *iftaar*. In doing so, they connect and mingle like the bold and beautiful colors of a tapestry, where each thread gracefully intertwines with many others to create that gorgeous pattern, yet retaining its individuality.

For each of the thirty days of *Ramadan*, the fast is closed with a light meal, the *suhoor*, early in the morning. The dawn prayers (*Fajr*) follow this closure. During the day, it is important for all those fasting to make that extra effort of performing the noon and the afternoon prayers—*Zuhr* and *Asr*, respectively—along with some reading of the *Qur'an*.

Finally, around dusk, families gather together to break the fast, and then perform two other prayers at the mosque (*Maghrib* and *Isha*), followed by a series of special *Ramadan* prayers—the *Tarāhweeh*. At UIC, the East Terrace in Student Center East was the usual venue for all students, faculty and staff for on campus *iftaar* and prayers.

Amina Dafallah, a rising junior in the Biological Sciences department, was kind enough to share her views about what *Ramadan* meant to her. “It is a spiritual and almost a magical time of year for the entire family. On a physiological level, even the body is getting ready for the upcoming challenge,” she said. For Amina, *Ramadan* is the time to get to the basics; superficial aspects of life like school and shopping slip in the back burner. “Every hour you’re thinking about how you can get closer to the divine.” She discusses how for some people it is a time of regret. “With our busy and invested lives, we can’t really put work and school aside, which inhibits us from dedicating a decent amount of time to the spirit of *Ramadan*.” Amina points out how fasting is “more than just abstaining from food and drink. It’s about becoming spiritually aware of oneself, others and remembering God’s blessings. Out of twelve months, it is in this single one that you transcend food and drink.”

I asked her about how she would feel if someone said that *Ramadan* just seemed like an awful time of hunger and thirst? Amina’s reply was quick and certain. In her words, “I would just feel sorry for them because they had not had the opportunity to shed off societal pressures and get in-tune with their spirituality. It is in *Ramadan* that you tap into the community, where those random people you bump into become your brothers and sisters. Every night is a celebratory occasion. There is rejoicing, laughter, family and feast. It is a framework of community that isn’t as strong outside of *Ramadan*.”

The Ramadan experience at UIC: As

Amina sees it, no other campus across the country compares to the experience of our students. "It is heart-warming to see the sheer number of pious Muslims opening up the *Qur'ân* and making attempts at spiritual connections. With over 200 attendees at the *iftaar* here, there is such oneness in the air. Everyone is sharing smiles and comfort glances because you know that the day was a hard one, but that you got through it," she said.

Finally, sighting of the moon marks the end of *Ramadan* with an annual day of feast, the *Eid-UI-Fitr* ("break fast", in Arabic). The day begins with morning *Eid* prayers at the mosque, alongside family and friends. Get-togethers and celebratory feasts follow shortly and continue on for the next three days. After this more than usual balance between the worldly and the spiritual, Amina said that she feels rejuvenated and looks forward to resuming everyday life. "It was like running a marathon. There was a high and it felt good at the time, but you don't know if you want to run again anytime soon." For more information about *Ramadan* or related topics, please visit www.uicmsa.com.

3

*Months
till
the
Ball!*

Horoscopes: Finish 2005 With a Bang

By Sameera Guttikonda

Aries: The rest of this year will be an eventful one for you, but if you keep focused, you can come through on top. It might become a financial crunch towards the end of this month, and you will feel more tempted than usual to buy frivolous things, but if you keep your money in your wallet, you won't feel the pain of financial strain later. You will also be coming to terms with what has been an excess of emotion lately, and then be able to sail into the New Year with a little less weight on your shoulders

Taurus: You've had a lot of difficulty lately, and when it seems that you've finally had enough, the stars will align so that you will sense that things are slowly getting better for you. You will have a few lost words and misunderstandings with people close to you, but these will become sorted out if you put in the time to fix them. Be forward-thinking, and your new year will start as a truly blank slate.

Gemini: You will have the urge to spend a lot of money this holiday season, but if you are careful, you can avoid the pain of dealing with your finances which would have hit you at the beginning of the new year. You, being a proactive person, will also take advantage of meeting many new people, and maybe even get close to someone romantically before the season ends.

Cancer: You have a tough, demanding month ahead of you. You will be placed under a lot of stress, but if you take the time to take care of yourself, you'll be successful in all your endeavors before the year ends. This is also the time for you to find someone in your life. Put yourself out there, and you'll be surprised at how popular you are.

Leo: Your tough month is going to get worse before it gets better, but you know the saying; it's always darkest before dawn. The thing that will help you get through this and allow you to have a successful end of 2005 is the strength of your friends and family. Keep them close, and be relieved when 2006 starts.

Virgo: Although you might disagree, change is often good. Your comfortable life maybe unsettled by a few abrupt changes, but if you go with the flow, you might just realize that things are only getting better. Also, this is a great time for you to travel, so keep your overseas contacts close.

Libra: This is a lucky month for you. Take risks that you have been thinking about, because now is when you will get the outcome you've been hoping for. You might have a little familial tension, but be sure to make your presence known. Also, make sure that you are prepared, because a few opportunities might be heading your way.

Scorpio: Go with your instincts with everything you do for the rest of this year. You will make some fabulous decisions, in work and in your social life. But, as always, be careful of people who are jealous of your success, and try to maintain your composure if anyone tries to burst your bubble.

Sagittarius: You've just ended a life-changing month, and the consequences of that will begin to show. Realize that change is slow, but especially in your case, very significant. You should also be prepared for any opportunities to advance your schooling or you career, because now is when they will present themselves.

Capricorn: You will have only one serious, consistent problem: your ongoing problem with authority figures will escalate until the end of this year. Make sure that you stay within your boundaries, and think carefully before you speak.

Aquarius: You feel unsatisfied with you relationship, but you must realize that it takes two to have something meaningful. It is because of this discontent that you will feel the urge to advance yourself in your education or career. Make sure that you are fully prepared for what you wish to embark upon.

Pisces: This is a month for you to lay low. Keep with your routine, and try not to have any disagreements with those who are close to you. Any drastic change that you chose to inflict upon yourself right now will end badly. Wait for the new year, and think very carefully before you make a decision.



by Michael Cheng

Any Japanese cuisine buffs out there? If so, then you should check out a new Japanese restaurant called Triad Sushi Lounge. Located just minutes from campus, Triad is definitely worth the trip. The décor has an Asian influence; bamboo shoots lining the walls, oriental lanterns, and soft, warm lighting all perfectly blend together to give a classy, yet comfortable, environment.

For those of age, the full bar at the front of the restaurant will satisfy your thirst, as well as entertain you with its plasma screen TV. The dining room has a six-seat sushi bar, table seating, seating on an elevated platform, and for an extra \$50, you can reserve a private VIP room. The VIP room treats you to a personal 37" plasma screen TV, dvd player, and sound system. You can bring your own movies to watch, borrow some from the restaurant's collection, or if you have a specific request, the staff will make a trip to the video store (with prior reservations).

Triad's menu consists of a wide variety of cold and hot appetizers, soups, salads, noodles, dinner entrée's, and of course maki (rolls) and sashimi (raw fish pieces). I highly recommend the sautéed scallops for an appetizer – hot, incredibly tender, and simply perfect. For a more filling dish, try their Asian lamb chops; you will not be disappointed. Although the lamb chops do run a bit pricey, there are numerous entrees less damaging to the ol' checkbook, but are just as enticing to the palate. The sushi takes home the gold, however. Amazingly fresh, and beautifully presented, it is some of the best sushi I've had.

The service at Triad is just as impressive as their food. The waitresses do a terrific job of making sure you are satisfied with your food. They came at the perfect times to refill drinks, remove empty plates, while still allowing you to engage in a private conversation with a date or a friend.

A visit to Triad will set you back about \$20-\$25, but that's pretty much the same amount you would normally pay for a meal at a decent Japanese restaurant – and Triad is definitely a "decent" Japanese restaurant, to say the least. With first-rate food, exceptional service, and a welcoming environment, Triad Sushi Lounge is on its way to be Chicago's finest Japanese restaurant.

Triad Sushi Lounge
1933 S. Indiana
Chicago

Hours: Mon-Sat: 5 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Sun: 4:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Phone: 312-225-8833

Fax: 312-225-8855

Up-to-date Research Findings and News of the Medical and Science World in Your Hands



Hair today... gone tomorrow?

Not anymore! Scientists have cloned everything from cows to monkeys to dogs but their new clone is something most people will never think of... the human hair! A company called Intercytex, based in England has begun testing the idea of hair cloning. The scientists take a sample of hair from a balding male and put it in a lab dish. They then expand the hair to thousands of times its original size, a basic self replication tool. After replication, the new cells are injected back into the scalp where they form follicles with existing skin cells. With this amazing new technology, Intercytex's chief scientific officer, Paul Kemp, states, "Sometime in the future, I think baldness will be a choice," which is a new discovery which will have a great impact on the appearance of generations to come and will take genetic engineering one step further in on the way to human cloning.

Children eating organic food to keep healthy and active lifestyle

In our everyday society, children of all ages are use to eating snacks such as chips, cookies, and other such items they find in vending machines, but recently the sale of healthy foods, have been on the rise, specifically organic foods. Organic food for all ages has grown to be more popular. AC Nielsen reports an 18% increase in organic baby food sales, a result of parents concern over the vulnerability of toxins many "fake foods" contain. Since many of today's most popular food products are grown with pesticides, hormones, and antibiotics and with the

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aid of genetic engineering, the risks of safe eating has intensified among Americans as they increase their stock of organic dairy and vegetable products. New research has shown support of the organic diet by showing that the levels of pesticides present in children on a regular diet were extremely high compared to those on the organic food plan. This switch to organic foods may cause children to revolt in disgust, but will lead to a more healthier and active society in the future, due to the help of science and medicine.

For more information about the pesticide levels in the fruits and veggies you eat or any other questions check out the website of the Environmental Working Group at:

www.ewg.org.

United States shortage of pharmacists...how can it be?

With a starting salary of at least \$80,000 and becoming one of the hottest health careers around, pharmacy has been a prominent choice for many soon to be graduate students, but how is a shortage possible with such high popularity for the profession? The skyrocketed need for pharmacists is due to changes in insurance policies and federal regulations of pharmaceuticals, which have made more domestic and international drugs available to more people. This competition is not only bad for the company's who have to fight just to hire one of the limited number of pharmacists on the job market, but it is also a great burden for the patients who have become dependant on medications and need pharmacists rather than doctors. In addition to the aging "baby-boom" population and great number of new drugs being advertised to the public, pharmacist officials predict that "the number of prescriptions has increased from 2 billion to 3.2 billion in the last

decade and that this problem is expected to become worse after the new Medicare prescription drug program which will begin January 1."

On the brighter side, the number of pharmacists being trained is increasing as new pharmacy schools pop up all over the country, not only due to the great demand but also to benefit and to help the patients who are in need.

Is coffee worse than cola for women?... Studies say yes!

We are all told that the caffeine in coffee and cola has a bad effect on your body and can create long-term high blood pressure, but recent studies on females coffee and cola drinkers has led scientists to believe that a can of coke has a more lethal effect on blood pressure than a simple cup of coffee regardless of the time of day it is consumed. Not only does cola



have a short term effect on blood pressure but also long term effects which are not as popular with daily coffee drinkers. In fact, women who drink four or more cups of coffee (regular or decaf) face a slightly lower risk for developing high blood pressure than those who drink a little or even none, shown by researchers at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. Although coffee contains a lot of antioxidants, which are thought to protect the heart from cancer risks, the real reason why sodas increase blood pressure is still unclear, until further tests to prove this hypothesis are conducted. Regardless of this indefinite conclusion, other such studies have shown that heavy coffee consumption has led to reduced risks in diabetes and liver cancer prevention. With future studies still in progress, the



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clear understanding between the benefits and damage caused by coffee and soda consumption will soon be defined due to advances and efforts made in medicine and science.

Bird Flu Update

Chinese officials in Beijing have reported that attempts to stop the bird flu from spreading through the country's poultry have failed. On Wednesday, three individuals who had been reached through contaminated poultry were reported as the first human deaths due to bird flu. With this current development, Asian leaders have taken a recent stand at an Asian-Pacific summit last week in which they warned of preventing human interaction with the contaminated poultry as a way of stopping the spread. Not only is bird flu a major concern for the leaders of the United States, China, and Russia, but also North Korea, whose communist regime official stated, "Projects to prevent bird flu are deepening further." Even though millions of birds have been vaccinated, a total of 15 cases have been found since the outbreak started on October 19. Although Chinese officials are blaming the spread of bird flu on migratory birds, the spread of the flu is under control. Gratefully, no human deaths have been discovered in the United States.



ASB Treasurer Deborah Fadowole counts the incoming cash at the Auction



Mulling over all the choices at the ASB Auction



The excitement builds as the ASB Auction is about to start!

News from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs

Do you like writing, or have you recently written a paper with an emphasis on ethics? Or are you an undergraduate student with exceptional accomplishments that are worthy of national recognition? The Office of Special Scholarship Programs would like to offer you assistance in pursuing the following opportunities:

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest is an annual competition designed to challenge college juniors and seniors to analyze the urgent ethical issues confronting them in today's complex world. Students have the opportunity to win cash awards, (First Prize — \$5000; Second Prize — \$2500; Third Prize — \$1500; Honorable Mentions (2) — \$500 each) as well as the chance to meet Elie Wiesel in New York City.

In 3,000 to 4,000 words, students are encouraged to raise questions, single out issues and identify dilemmas. The essay may be developed from any point of view and may take the form of an analysis that may be biographical, historical, literary, philosophical, psychological, sociological, and theological. Essays must be original, unpublished works of the students (though essays written for class may be re-worked to fit the context of the essay topics).

Students are required to have a Faculty Sponsor for the contest. The sponsor is in charge of reviewing the essay and signing the student's entry form. Any interested professor at the student's school may act as a Faculty Sponsor.

The Special Scholarship Office is available for assistance to students in picking essay topics, writing and editing their submissions, and preparing their application packets. ***Information packets regarding essay topics, contest guidelines, and application details can be picked up at the Office of Special Scholarships, 104 Grant Hall, or visit www.eliewiesel.org today!*** The completed submission package **must be postmarked by December 9, 2005.**

USA Today

Nominations are open for USA TODAY's 2006 ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM, recognizing outstanding undergraduates nationwide. The 20 students named to the First Team receive \$2500 and are featured in USA TODAY as representatives of all outstanding college students. Judges consider academic excellence, leadership and a student essay describing his or her most outstanding intellectual endeavor. Many past winners have been the founders, developers, or creators of a new idea, group, or concept. Please visit the USA TODAY website to read profiles of this year's winners.

All students with at least sophomore standing that are interested in applying may do so. The staff at the Office of Special Scholarship Programs offers advising to students during the application process. Information packets can be picked up at 104 Grant Hall or are available at: www.allstars.usatoday.com.

Nominations must be postmarked by November 30, 2005.

Glamour Magazine 2006 Top 10 Women College Competition

The *Glamour* Top 10 College Women Competition recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. Winners receive \$2000, coverage in the October 2006 issue of *Glamour*, and an opportunity to meet with top female professionals during a trip to New York City.

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Spotlight on a Fellow: Professor Bette L. Bottoms, Psychology Department

by Elaine Kalder



Dr. Bottoms, can you give a brief summary of how you got here?

I was a psychology major at Randolph Macon Women's College, a small school in Virginia. I first became interested in eyewitness testimony research while I was a student there. I then went to graduate school to work with Gail Goodman, who is the leader in the field of children's eyewitness testimony research. I completed my master's thesis at the University of Denver, and then moved with Dr. Goodman to SUNY Buffalo to complete my Ph.D. In 1992, I got my first job at UIC, and I've been here ever since.

Besides teaching, what are some of your other roles at UIC and in the psychology community?

I'm currently the chair of the Psychology and Law minor program at UIC, which is one of the few in the country. I am also the director of undergraduate studies in the psychology department. In addition, I am the president of Division 37 of the American Psychological Association (APA). Division 37 is the section of APA that focuses on children, youth and family services. That is, Division 37 promotes research that improves the lives of children, youth and families.

What exactly does the area of psychology and law cover? And what are some of your research interests?

In general, researchers in the field of psychology and law use scientific methods to test assumptions that courts and the law make about human behavior. For example, the courts have assumed that allowing children to testify in court will not harm them. Is this true?

Will special accommodations for children, such as allowing them to use close-captioned TV when testifying, traumatize them less and increase their accuracy? Does jury selection really root out people with biases and ensure that juries are composed of twelve fair people? These are the sorts of research questions that interest people in the field of psychology and law.

As far as my research goes, I'm broadly interested in the field of children, psychology, and law. One area I have studied is children's actual accuracy when they are reporting past events, such as childhood sexual abuse. I have also studied children's perceived accuracy—that is, how accurate jurors perceive them to be when children are testifying about past events. This work is both theoretically interesting and directly related to issues in the community. My work has been helpful to forensic interviewers such as police officers and social workers, who need to know the best techniques for interviewing children. My research is also useful to attorneys who need to understand how jurors might react to their witnesses, so that they can prepare the best case possible.

How did you become involved with the Honors College?

I've worked with Honors College students in my lab for years, and I officially became an Honors College fellow last year. I currently have several advisees, and I'm delighted to be involved. When students work as undergraduate research assistants, they are learning how to do psychological research. In my lab, for example, there are two Honors College students working on their senior honors theses right now.

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Do you have any general advice for undergraduates?

My advice for students would be to read a lot outside of class. Go to the bookstore, get Pulitzer Prize books, and look up all the words you don't know. This will definitely pay off when you take the GRE. Also, choose your career wisely. Don't do something just because you think you ought to.

The Deteriorated Legend of Zorro

by Victor Sapozhnikov

Seven years after Antonio Banderas was introduced as the street scamp beset as a desperado transformed into the conqueror of dark forces and Catherine Zeta Jones was made into an instant star, the belated sequel fails to recapture the charm left behind by its predecessor. The *Mask of Zorro* hit the audience with a smashing combination of romance, action, and adventure, while remarkably transforming Hollywood's image during the period that was ruled by action films. Martin Campbell succeeded in captivating the audience with carefully scripted characters that stood out in multiple dimensions and redefined the thrill-packed movies with good natured humor that paralleled its unbounded sense of adventure. The plot, unity, and the overall composure of the film served as a reminder of the thrills instilled by legendary movies such as *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Wild Wild West*, and *Robin Hood*. Having been downgraded to PG from PG-13, the synthesized link from the Mask to the Legend had failed to extend the splendid fights, fascinating adventures, and vigor and fervor ingredients that were instrumental in pushing the film towards the crème of the crop of the box office hits.

With both of the stars being older, revealing less chemistry, and centered on marital disputes, the triumphs that characterized the charismatic Zorro portrayed a sense of an illusion throughout the film.

In 1850, California is under the brink of becoming the 31st state while threatened by a racist evil coalition with the intentions that range from halting the vote to gradually dismantling the Union. Entrusted as the guardian of his people from the corruption and scoundrels that plague California, Zorro discovers himself torn between an obligation to defend his people over sacrificing his marriage intertwined with a poorly cultivated relationship with his son.

An unnecessary addition to the Legend was manifested with the introduction of Zorro's son, performed by Adrian Alonso, who aggravated the largely artificial plot that needed its flame to be forcefully lit. The major flaw of the movie arose in his spiritless son's everlasting inability to identify his father behind the mask, rendering him to be a poor idol to Zorro. As the multifaceted plot unfolds, the secret agendas hidden in the intentions of each character trigger a series of struggles and dramatic heights while lavishly extending the length of the movie beyond 2 hours.

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Research: What Does it Mean to You?

By S. Hafsa Shahid

Whether it's for the sheer pleasure of learning more about your passions, or if it's just sprucing up your graduate application, research seems to be playing an integral role in a UIC student's academic life. If you aren't already involved in research, you are probably looking for that opportunity. At UIC, it's not surprising when a fellow student tells you how they didn't quite enjoy their first research experience and then decided to seek out another one. UIC offers these alternatives.

To say that there is no research opportunity available on campus would constitute a huge understatement. Often, students fail to realize the endless possibilities that lie within their reach. As a research institution, UIC offers a wide array of research resources for its keen students. Among many selections is the Honors College Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) Program, the independent research classes offered across several departments, REU summer research, campus mass-mails targeting interested students, and of course, all of the faculty from

the east and beyond the west campus. For those of you seeking hardcore medical-related scientific research, remember we are just minutes away from the Illinois Medical District. As reported on the UIC fact sheet, our university is the world's most powerful magnet for imaging the human body. Its magnetic field is 100,000 times greater than that of the earths. We also happen to have a virtual reality tool, PARIS®—the Personal Augmented Reality Immersive System. Collaborating researchers can use this design to move and feel a virtual object in real time together.

What makes our campus different from many other Illinois universities is that our administration fosters research excellence in all disciplines, and not just the sciences. This equal participation is evident at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). This spring, the event had over sixty poster presentations, which were roughly divided into three categories—the Humanities and Social Sciences, Life and Health Sciences and finally the Physical Sciences. With much curiosity, I walked up to the Humanities posters, wondering, *"What could they possibly be presenting?"* To my surprise, I found those presentations to be

some of the most intriguing ones at the symposium.

One particular research is worth mentioning. The student had taken dramatic, black and white shots of different street corners that surround the UIC campus, and then she had them laid out in an intertwined web fashion. It was like a photographic street map—much more aesthetically pleasing than the usual campus maps we pick up during orientation and flinch because of how tiny the street names are, not to mention the arduous legend if you plan on an adventure to the west-side of campus. Of course, there was a lot more to her research than this surface scratching I have done. Even the guest speaker, President Joe White, paid careful attention to her poster, whereupon they shared their common interest in traveling to Paris. He happened to have studied abroad while in college and she was about to do the same the following year as an extension of her current research. At any rate, the point I am trying to make is that simply doing research is not sufficient to realize its maximum potential on *your* learning experience. To attain the best of it, it's important that you share your work with other great minds.

Only then will you know its true value.

If you are more of a lab-oriented researcher, who is absolutely fascinated with your rat-dissection skills and fixing the hippocampus from rat fetuses, then talk about that experience. Let your psychology TA know that you really enjoyed culturing those neurons, which the professor merely touched upon in the lecture that morning. You never know when an opportunity might arise—by sharing your research experience, you may open doors to a job that you had never anticipated.

A great occasion to showcase your research and expose it for some critique is the upcoming 7th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. The event will be taking place on Friday, April 14th, 2006 in Student Center East. David R. Mosen, President and CEO from the Museum of Science and Industry, will be delivering the keynote address. The URS Steering committee anticipates more than seventy presentations and strongly encourages your participation in this one of a kind symposium. All students are welcome to attend workshops on writing abstracts and presenting research. The symposium is open to research in *all* disciplines of study. For more information, you can visit <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/urs>.



There was plenty of delicious Indian food at the Luncheon

Special Scholarships Cont'd from page 25

Candidates are evaluated based on the following criteria: leadership experience, personal involvement and community and campus affairs, and academic excellence. **The national application deadline is February 10, 2006.** For the complete list of last year's *Glamour* winners or to download the application, please go to their website, <http://www.glamour.com/main/pollsandcontests/articles/050912top10collegewomen>.

For more information regarding the scholarship opportunities listed here, or to find out more about other national scholarship awards, please contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs at 312.355.2477, send email to: ssp@uic.edu, or visit the website at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp>.

Three More Months Till the Ball!



My Final Exam: A Freshman Reflection

By Liz Boyle

Where, oh where, have the sixteen weeks gone? Suddenly, this inconceivable phenomenon lurks on the horizon as I realize first-semester final exams of my freshman year are rapidly approaching. Yet as I ponder this reality I must reflect as to the purpose of these exams...Final exams are meant to be a cumulative review of what is learned in a semester, and I cannot help but wonder just what is it that I have learned this semester? Granted my knowledge in chemistry, English, psychology, and the humanities has increased exponentially, but what have I learned about the realities of college life?

Sixteen weeks later, I no longer need to take a few moments to do a mental conversion between acronyms—SCE, SH, BH,UH, and SEL— and their full titles. I now know how many plates are allowed in the cafeteria to be included as a “meal”, which couches in the Honors College lounge are most comfortable, your I-Card and U-Pass are gold, and to never schedule a chemistry lecture at 8:00 AM on a Monday. While these nitty-gritties are essential for day to day functioning, and one’s own sanity, there are some even greater lessons to be gleaned that are not taught in the classroom. And these are my top 5:

1. Don’t be afraid to ask questions, no matter how obvious the answer appears to be. For that matter don’t be afraid to ask more than once and for further clarification.
2. Don’t be afraid to try new things. I know this appears like a trite or cliché observation; however, you never know what the end result might be.
3. Take advantage of the diversity on campus. We are rapidly becoming an interconnected, global society, so why not

get a jump start. Chicago offers so many opportunities for new and diverse experiences. Not only will you become well rounded, it’s a lot of fun!

4. (For those living on campus) Leave your dorm door open occasionally...You never know who might wander in to say “hello.”
5. Take advantage of the Honors College’s resources. Advising, research opportunities, activities, theater tickets, a quiet place to study...they have it all!

Sixteen weeks later and these observations have yet to even begin to scratch the surface regarding the deep, expansive knowledge I will glean as my college career advances. Who knows what the spring final exam will bring?

****NEW COURSE****

Introduction to Asian American Studies

Listed as:

ENGL 125 | SOC 125 | HIST 114
(See timetable for CRN’s)

Lecture: MW: 3 p.m.; Discussion: F: 2 p.m. or 3 p.m.

Discussion: F: 2PM or 3PM

Fulfills humanities & cultural diversity general education requirements

For more information, contact: Professor Karen Su, karensu@uic.edu or Teaching Assistant Sandhya Krishnan, srk@uic.edu

Although Banderas hasn't appeared in major hits in years, his unremarkable role failed to sustain the image that he had built up throughout the past decades. Attempts at renovating his relationship with his son were hollow, futile, and lifeless. The plot introduces a contradiction when Zorro resorts to violence and ultimately crushes his attempts to teach his son of the "acceptable" means at resolving disputes. In several scenes, the exuberant Zorro was convoluted with a socially unacceptable drunk during his retreat from the mask.

The advertising of the film displays the movie as the must-see for the first time, just as for the fans of the predecessor, but an examination into the core makes the advertisement appear as a concealed version of its true nature. It was evident that the direction experienced friction in the scenes that lacked the compulsive energy to increase the heartbeat and keep the audience on the edge of their seats, as was popularly proclaimed by the first sequel. Even though the poorly scripted structure of the film might elicit laughs and the plot will underscore the meaning of the legend, the movie still managed to rank among the top movies with its release onto the big screen.

*Have a
wonderful,
safe, and
relaxing
Winter Break!*



Grabbing a few bites between checking in students & faculty at the Luncheon



Enjoying the food and the company

Honors College String Ensemble Preview

by Jessica Huang

On Tuesday, November 22, the Honors College String Ensemble performed a Preview Concert in the Lounge. The theme was "Winter Wonderland," and snowflakes and Christmas lights hung up around the room created a festive atmosphere. Invited guests included Honors College faculty and staff, fellows, and professors. Several students filtered in and out during the performance. Those in attendance enjoyed complimentary refreshments and desserts.

The String Ensemble is a newly formed organization that has a separate sanction of an executive board, and a group of musicians. Musicians go through a full audition process, with board members serving as judges. As of Fall 2005, there are three violinists and cellists in the ensemble: Benjamin Bick, Samantha Cabrera, Brian Choi, Nastasia Salazar, Jessica Sheng, and Celine Thum.

The next function is going to be a joint concert and open mic event with Red Shoes Review in January. For more information about other upcoming events, contact the HCSE Activities Director, Laura Kim: lkim22@uic.edu).



Back: Nastasia Salazar, Celine Thum
Front: Samantha Cabrera, Jessica Sheng



Jessica Sheng concentrates on her music



James Criss presents a rose to Celine Thum