

# THE AMPERSAND

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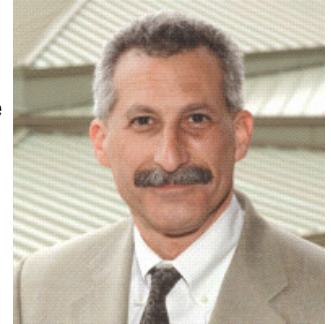
- Honors College Luncheon is fast approaching!
- Tuition Waiver winners announced
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- ASB Auction Information



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SATURDAY,**  
**MARCH 3rd, 2007**  
**IS THE DATE OF**  
**THE**  
**HONORS**  
**COLLEGE BALL**

## A NOTE FROM DEAN KAUFMAN

Welcome to a new academic year and the new Ampersand. The Ampersand has both a new look and a more inclusive editorial policy this year, allowing a wider participation among our Honors Community. We hope that our student-published, edited and written newsletter will continue to be central to the Honors and UIC communities, keeping you up to date on the latest happenings and future events. We also will work to inform you of student and faculty achievements and present stories of interest to our community. Please join me in wishing Ampersand Editor-in-Chief Steve Kotsiris, and the entire team the best as they embark upon the new year.



Dean Lon Kaufman

## KATHERINE STACHOWICZ NAMED LINCOLN ACADEMY STUDENT LAUREATE

Honors College senior Katherine Stachowicz has been named as the UIC Lincoln Academy Student Laureate. Every year the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award Program sets out to honor an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois, honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Kathy is a senior, double majoring in English and biology. During her time here at UIC, she has been a resident assistant on the Honors College floor and an elected representative on the student-run Honors College Advisory Board. She has also been active with UIC Student Orientation, serving both as an orientation leader for a year, and as a Student Orientation Director for two years. In addition to her love of literature, Kathy is pursuing a pre-medicine curriculum and would like to attend medical school after graduation.

According to nominator Josephine Volpe, Assistant Director of Special Scholarship Programs, "Kathy's biggest asset is her strength of character combined with her personality and her ability to communicate. That may be three assets adding up to one, but Kathy's many talents and wonderful qualities all combine to make her a very engaged, involved, caring and strong leader."

Kathy will receive a \$300 award, which will be presented at a ceremony and luncheon hosted by the governor in Springfield on Saturday, October 28th.

Congratulations to Kathy!

## HONORS COLLEGE LUNCHEON

It's that time again.....time for the Fall Semester Honors College Luncheon hosted by the Honors College Advisory Board. All Honors College members and staff are welcome to dine with us on Wednesday, November 1st from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. in the basement of Burnham Hall. As always, this event is completely free. All you need to bring is a valid i-card and a hungry appetite! This semester's luncheon is being catered by Fontano's Subs - a local family-owned business right here on campus. So mark your calendars and remember to come to the Honors College fall luncheon for a great time, free food, and an opportunity to talk with fellow Honors College students and staff!



## KABBES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, several outstanding Honors College students are recognized for their achievement in undergraduate research with a \$1,000 Sarah Madonna Kabbes Scholarship for Undergraduate Research. Miss Kabbes was an alumna of the Urbana-Champaign campus and a former faculty member at UIC's Navy Pier campus.

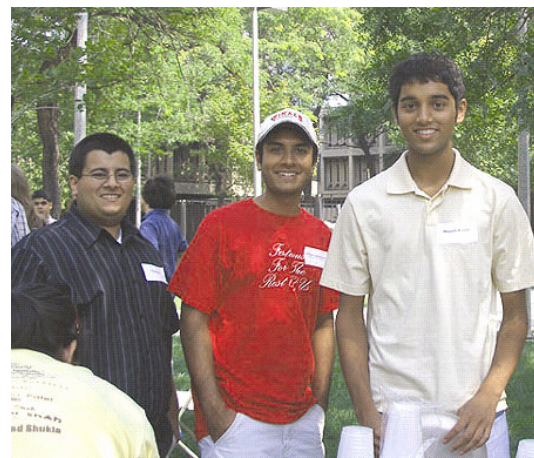
Students are nominated by their faculty supervisor for the award. Recipients of the Kabbes Scholarship must continue to conduct undergraduate research through the URA program during both semesters of the subsequent academic year. In addition, at the end of each semester, recipients submit a brief written report to the Honors College on their participation in research work and the progress of the project.

The following Honors College students were recently awarded Kabbes Scholarships. Brook Cadwell, Political Science/Economics; Giselle Hernandez, Applied Psychology; Jason Ip, Bioengineering; John Komenda, Biochemistry; Auratip Paramadilok, Chemistry; Brittney Rayhorn, Psychology; Jyoti Shenai, Biomedical Engineering; Shripaad Shukla, Biochemistry; and Marta Witek, Biochemistry.

Congratulations to all the winners.

*"Never judge a book by its cover; take the time to read it."*

## HONORS COLLEGE NEW STUDENT DAY



On Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, new Honors College Freshmen enjoyed the annual New Student Day activities. The Honors College Advisory Board planned a day full of information, good food, and fun for all. After a picnic lunch on the lawn in front of SEO, students enjoyed a variety of games, including an egg carrying contest, a three legged race, and a variety of other games. In the above (left) photo, you will see a toilet-paper-wrapped contestant making his way toward the finish line. Students on the right are waiting patiently in line for their sub sandwiches.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

KEVIN GARVEY

Since 1985, the Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarship has been awarded to Black, Latino, and Native American students who demonstrate potential and academic achievement in fields where minorities have been traditionally under represented. The individual receiving the award must show a commitment to the dream of Dr. King through community service.

Angela Bixby, a third-year neuroscience student who is also a member of the Honors College, is among this year's recipients. She is active both within the university and within her community. She is a member of UIC's Medicina Scholars Program and is president of the Health Oriented Latino Association. Bixby also has volunteer experience at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Gilda's Club, which is a cancer support center. These experiences have had a profound impact on Bixby.

The essay she wrote for the scholarship focused on the importance of having a knowledge of science along with the other side of medicine – treating patients with empathy and respect. "I want to be not only a good doctor, but an understanding and sympathetic doctor," Bixby explained. "I don't want to look at a patient and see

a chart, I want to see a human being."

Bixby's goals for the future include maintaining high standards of personal scholarship as well as giving back to the Latino community. Before coming to Chicago, she earned a degree and worked in a dental lab in her home country of Colombia. After moving to the United States to finish her education, she decided to use her education to give back to the Latino community. "If you have knowledge, why not use it to help others?" she said.

Bixby stressed the importance of ethics and empathy in medicine; she plans to work in a hospital setting and conduct health fairs as a way to aid the community at large. She envisions life as a process of continual learning and dedication to community service. "Many years in the future, maybe twenty years from now, when I am in a very specialized field, I want to take what I have learned and go back to Colombia and teach it there, to give back to my country of origin." At the present time, Bixby is concentrating on her UIC education; "Right now I'm focused on getting good grades and scoring well on the MCAT." She is putting the scholarship money toward finishing her degree.

### Scholarship News from OSSP

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) assists undergraduate and professional students in applying for nationally-competitive scholarships. We also provide information about other scholarships either at UIC or external to the university, advice on application preparation, and assistance throughout the application process.

As the school year starts to move along, have you begun to wonder if there is funding available to help you cover your costs??? Honors students should consider the following scholarships, for which OSSP will help you apply:

#### **Truman Scholarship (UIC Deadline: November 10, 2006)**

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards \$30,000 scholarships to students who want to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in public service leadership. Each year 70-75 awards are given, and winners are provided with leadership training, graduate school counseling and internship opportunities with federal agencies. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.7 or higher and have public service related experiences and goals, and must be a full-time junior level student at a four-year institution pursuing a bachelor's degree. US citizens only. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

#### **Goldwater Scholarship (UIC Deadline: November 14, 2006)**

The Goldwater Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomores and juniors interested in pursuing a career in science, math or engineering. Each scholarship covers eligible expenses for tuition, fees, books and room/board up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually. Sophomores are eligible for up to two years of funding. Candidates must be interested in a research career in science, math or engineering, be a U.S. citizen, natural or resident alien, and have a GPA of 3.7 or above. **Students planning on medical studies alone are not eligible.** For more information, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

#### **Merage Institute Graduate Fellowship (UIC Deadline: November 1, 2006)**

The Merage Institute for the American Dream is dedicated to promoting opportunities for immigrants to achieve their American dreams. The foundation provides each of its Fellows with a two-year stipend of \$20,000. Stipends may be used for fostering education, studying abroad, securing mentors, and supporting internship opportunities. Applicants must be full-time senior students, and immigrants to the United States. Candidates will be selected based on demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, creativity, and consistent ethical behavior. US citizens, permanent residents, or immigrants indicating that they are in the process of becoming a citizen are all eligible. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

#### **USA-Today All-USA College Academic Team (National Deadline: November 30, 2006)**

The All-USA College Academic Team honors full-time undergraduates who not only excel in scholarship but also extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society. Criteria include grades, academic rigor, leadership, activities and most important, the student's essay describing his or her most outstanding intellectual endeavor done while in college. The contest seeks not only academic excellence, but an outstanding original project or creation. Candidates must be full-time, undergraduate juniors or seniors attending a four-year institution. For more information, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

#### **NSEP Boren Scholarship (UIC Deadline: December 1, 2006)**

The NSEP Scholarships offer a unique opportunity for U.S. undergraduates interested in working for the government to study abroad. Scholarships are awarded to American students who are concerned with international issues and foreign languages in world regions that are critical to U.S. interests. **The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.** Winners receive \$2,500-\$20,000 depending on the length of study. Candidates should be aware that winners are required to 'pay back' their time spent abroad through **paid work** for the federal government. Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence, and should be able to articulate their need to study in the country they choose on the application. US citizens only. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

## GET READY FOR THE ASB AUCTION!

Break out your platform shoes and your polyester suits for a good cause. Disco is making a comeback... for at least one day!

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is once again hosting our largest fundraising event of the year: our annual auction, which will have a disco theme. This year's auction is on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The silent auction will be from 4 to 6 p.m. in the White Oak Room of SCE and the exciting live auction takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cardinal Room. Both rooms are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, just to the left of the escalators. We have lots of exciting items for you to bid on this year, including restaurant gift certificates, downtown hotel packages, and many other surprises. Once again, our guest auctioneer will be former Honors College Associate Dean, Math Professor Jeff Lewis

Just FYI: Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a student-run organization that places teams of University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) students in volunteer sites across the country during a week of winter break and the entire spring break. All proceeds from our auction go towards subsidizing the cost of student volunteer trips. So boogie on down to the auction & have a great time and support a great cause!

### How do you know you're an Honors College Student?



"When everyone in the lounge is comparing computer processors."

-Kalea Colletta



"If you bring your homework to a friend's house everyday- and he isn't in your class."

- Kimberly Baade



"You never have enough time to go to the gym."

-Steven Siu



"Your backpack weighs as much as a five year old kid."

- Rasha Atallah

## HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS TAKE PART IN RAMADAN ACTIVITIES

SANAH YASSIN

Muslims globally are taking part in their religious holiday Ramadan, where they fast from dawn until dusk for one month. They fast from food and drink. Muslims also abstain from smoking, cursing, and any bad habits in general. Sarah Saeed, a Pre-Medicine English major, is president of the Muslim Student Association. She explained, "It's not just that you're not eating or drinking from dawn until dusk, it's that for one whole month you're reflecting on who you are as a human being, what you want to achieve in this life, and overall living a modest and simple lifestyle. We're so caught up in material things that we forget to just take a step back once in awhile and reevaluate our goals."

There are various events hosted by UIC's Muslim Student Association (MSA), and Honors College students are very active in all of them. Some of the activities are: gathering together for afternoon prayer; Friday prayer services in the Rathskellar at one and two PM and meeting for iftar, time to break fast, around 6:15 PM in the East Terrace. Another event organized by the MSA is the annual Fast-a-Thon, an event where both Muslims and non-Muslims fast to raise money for the Chicago Food Depository.

One of the many Honors College students fasting is Adam Kuranishi, a freshman majoring in Political Science with Pre-Law ambitions. Adam explains, "I'm fasting to experience an aspect of a different religion. It's also for a good cause and to support my Muslim friends. Muslims are the most discriminated people of our time, so I want to support them." The Fast-a-thon occurred on Wednesday, October 18 at 5:30pm in the East Terrace. Muslims will be ending Ramadan with their Eid holiday, where they will attend religious services and celebrate with family, friends, and of course, lots of food.

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## DONATE BY DESIGN SHOWCASES HONORS COLLEGE TALENT

In the boring hot summer holidays, Honors College biological sciences majors Kanan Shah and Amrita Narang channeled their creative energy into making tote bags. In a matter of days, they were making fashion statements with two beautifully designed bags. That was the small but sure beginning of a new student organization – Donate by Design.

The goal of Donate by Design is to raise donations for charitable organizations that help victims of domestic violence and to raise awareness for the issue through the artistic expressions of the members of the UIC community. Our members develop a sense of camaraderie and learn new artistic forms of expression from each other by participating in this effort. We encourage our members to attend all the meetings and offer suggestions to enhance the designs submitted. Different members often combine their talents for designing, crocheting, knitting, embroidering, painting, etc to form a complete product which incorporates a diverse range of styles. The bags featured in the photographs have been hand-crafted by Shah and Narang.

Regardless of how a product gets designed or made, our purpose is achieved when we sell it. The products will be sold online and periodically at booths located on campus. We were recently featured at the Cultural Fest and we are planning future sales events as well as workshops where people can create their own bags or personalize the ones already created by our members. At the end of the spring semester, all the proceeds collected throughout the school year will be appropriated to one or more charities as decided by all the members.

However, each member has just two hands. Our organization needs members who have time to offer and willingness to learn, to teach, and to help. Membership is open to all members of the UIC community and we would love to have you as a part of our organization. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail us at [donatebydesign@gmail.com](mailto:donatebydesign@gmail.com).

Contributions to our project may not only be made through personal time commitment, but also through the purchase of our products. We will soon be showcasing our products at a table outside the Honors College, so please check the Honors College Announcements for further updates. Also, for more information on how to buy our products online, information regarding Domestic Violence, or just to see what our members are up to, visit our website at [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/other/dbd/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/other/dbd/)



Samples of beautifully hand-decorated tote bags made by the members of Donate by Design

## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LIAT SHETRET

JACQUELINE HARTFORD

Liat Shetret is a senior Honors College student majoring in political science and psychology. She traveled to Washington, D.C. over the summer for an internship. She was awarded this honor by the Distinguished Scholars Program, which is presented by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She has a passion for the Middle East, and she completed the internship portion of the program as a research assistant at the Middle East Institute. The goal of Shetret's work was to educate people about what they hear about the Middle East "more than what they hear in the media," she said. She considers the Middle East to be her "baby project."

Among the notable people with whom she worked were Clayton E. Swisher, the author of *The Truth About Camp David: The Untold Story About the Collapse of the Middle East Peace Process*, and Aaron Miller. She did research for four chapters in Miller's memoirs, which will be published next fall. Shetret was impressed with the notability of the people with whom she worked. Referring to Miller, she said, "You'd be sitting there and he'd get a call from Clinton."

One thing she learned about the environment in Washington, D.C. was that it is highly networked, and making progress there depends upon the people that one knows. This reality was displayed clearly one Friday evening at a dinner. A woman asked Shetret about her work, and she responded with details about her internship and the research she was doing. At the end of the dinner, the woman gave Shetret her business card, revealing that she was the Foreign Relations Correspondent from the *Boston Globe*. By the next morning, Miller already knew about their encounter. Shetret said that the experience showed that

D.C. is "big but small in every field," and that it is necessary to think before speaking.

The class work portion of Liat's stay in the nation's capitol was completed at Georgetown University. Her experience at Georgetown was somewhat disappointing for her. She said that the school was beautiful on the exterior, but the living conditions were inferior. The university was doing poorly in comparison to UIC with respect to diversity. The student body at Georgetown consists of students from similar backgrounds, which is a sharp contrast to the diverse student body at UIC. "I don't think I felt like I belonged," she said.

One rewarding group experience that Shetret participated in was a project to improve a community housing shelter called Jubilee. There was a blank field area, and the group planted trees and built a play area for the children. The improvements made the area seem a bit "happier." In five hours sixty students had made a noticeable change of which they could all be proud.

The group with whom Shetret worked became friends as the summer progressed. However, the outbreak of the war of Israel with the Hezbollah created a different dynamic within the group. Before the outbreak of the war the group would do things such as go clubbing and write small newsletters that talked about what everyone was doing. After the outbreak, international tension formed between Israelis and Muslims. In the normal group setting everyone would be quiet about the mounting tensions, but then the group would attend a lecture. When the floor opened for discus-

## MESSENGER'S MESSAGE

CHRISTINA JAREMUS

On October 4, 2006, in the Honors College Lounge, Professor Chris Messenger delivered a lecture on how the university talks about popular culture. Referencing Italian mafia classics, Messenger focused on the existing television series, *The Sopranos* and, published in 1969, Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather* which was later adapted to film by Francis Ford Coppola in 1972 and 1974.



Professor Messenger speaks to HC students and staff

"As far back as I can remember, I never read what the course outline said I should read..." As the quotation highlights, as a student, Chris Messenger always made time to read what **most held his interest**; often, Messenger argues, the books he read were *better* than those readings required for his classes. Messenger's point is that one should not "check their popular interests at the door." Messenger resists simply talking about the contents of the literary canon; there should be a way for programs of study discuss the intersections between scholarly texts and popular literature, culture and multimedia.

Based on points in Messenger's book, *The Godfather and American Culture: How the Corleones Became Our Gang*, Messenger explains why American audiences love mod-related stories, especially characters like Don Corleone from *The Godfather* and Tony Soprano from *The Sopranos*. Messenger argues that although *The Godfather* and *The Sopranos* indeed reveal the dreadful, criminal side of the mafia, the audience also sees the human side of Don Corleone and Tony and identifies with Soprano and Corleone family life.

Specifically, in *The Sopranos*, Messenger cites that while the audience joins Tony as he 'wacks' people who get on his bad side, the audience also sits down with Tony and his family for Sunday dinner. Although the audience sees Tony *rendezvous* with a prostitute or side girl and party at his strip club, Bada Bing, the audience also watches Tony tenderly kiss his daughter Meadow on the forehead before she goes out for the night. Even though we watch Tony 'wack' his best friend for leaking information to the CIA, we see Tony psychologically lament over his decision to kill his long time friend in his dreams. Further, through Tony's visits to Doctor Melfi, a panic disorder causing Tony's well-known fainting spells is unraveled as well as fears and haunting childhood memories. Ultimately, as Messenger points out, because we see Tony's sensitive side, the audience both identifies and sides with him.

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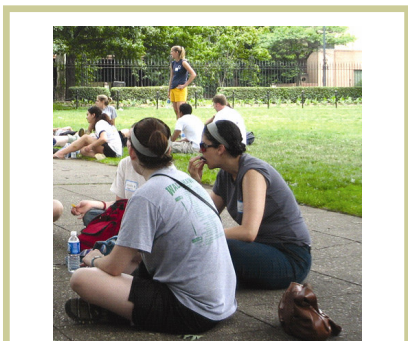
See accompanying photo on next page

## MESSENGER, CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Built into *The Sopranos* are issues key in the everyday lives of Americans all over the country. One is forced to examine generational differences and one's own view on the role of race in relationships when Meadow starts dating a guy who is incredible intelligent and engaging, yet unacceptable in Tony's eyes because he is black and Jewish. One thinks about their own monetary, stability and security issues when Tony's wife Carmela decides to step out of her usual role as housewife expressing concern and taking charge of her financial situation in the event of Tony's death. As Messenger mentioned, we negotiate the changing and persisting role of women in society by reflecting on the characters Carmela Soprano and Doctor Jennifer Melfi. Carmela, the devoutly Catholic domestic wife, steps out of her subordinate role as Tony's wife, (thus uninformed accessory), when she leaves Tony in the fifth season. Similarly, the strength of the college-educated career woman, Psychologist and Doctor Melfi (who acts as analyst and therapist to Tony), is questioned when she is raped in a stairwell in the third season and considers asking Tony for help to avenge the rapist.

Ultimately, what made Messenger's lecture so compelling was his point that in mob narratives, just like in America, "there is hypocrisy and there is caring." The structure of the mob narrative is such that the story connects very *intimately* with an America audience. As Messenger cites, as an audience, we live with the Sopranos, and we take their issues, (i.e. husbands, wives, daughters, economic stress, lovers, confessions to shrinks, medications and drugs), home with us.

In my opinion, a whole class or seminar could be dedicated to the discussion of parallels and issues in *The Sopranos* relevant to contemporary society and life; perhaps Messenger's book could contribute to course readings. As a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I feel that Messenger is an effective lecturer because he invites student to connect the usually personal and private aspects of lives with what is being studied and examined in school, popular culture; this way of teaching makes the course material more interesting and alive.



Liat meets with other interns in Washington, D.C.

## FOCUS ON A FELLOW: NANCY CIRILLO

CAITLIN COHN

I recently had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Professor Nancy Cirillo. I was interested in interviewing her because I took English 242, which is a course on British Literature from 1600 to 1900 and found her class to be inspiring. Professor Cirillo is a Professor Emeritus in the English department, as well as an Honors College fellow. She began her academic career in European studies and learned German and Italian. She grew up during World War II and was influenced by her knowledge of Nazism and the concentration camps. She explained that:

"German and Italian are the two languages of the fascist countries and that's what I wrote my doctoral dissertation on." Until the late 1980's she taught Comparative Literature, but it when became difficult for her to go to Europe to study, she focused her attention on Colonialism, of which the Caribbean is a central part.

Cirillo has been researching the Caribbean in recent years. She has written an essay on the Holocaust and its treatment in Caribbean literature, which will presumably be published as a chapter in a book on Genocide. Currently, she is working on an article on a little-known Guyanese novelist, Edgar Mittelholzer, who wrote a trilogy on the founding of Guyana. About her interest in the Caribbean, Professor Cirillo said, "The Caribbean is unique in the world in having no native population left and as is the very first place that saw modern argo-industrial work so it's almost a cauldron of new ideas, it always has been."

After Professor Cirillo finished her masters degree at the University of Chicago, she taught freshmen English at the University of Nebraska and found that she was passionate about teaching. She explained, "I discovered that the first time I was in a classroom I was scared out of my mind and I loved every minute of it." For a while she tried publishing, but found that it was a miserable experience. She later returned to school and earned her PhD. from New York University.

I asked her what advice she would offer to students who are planning on becoming English professors. She recounted a comment one of her professors at U of C made when she expressed her interest in teaching. He told her that "You've got to love it. Unlike law and medicine, there are no other rewards, but loving it." She added, "In addition to really wanting to be a professor, if one wants to work at an institution such as UIC, it is imperative that one is happy working alone. If research is not one's forte there are other options, such as teaching at a community college."

Cirillo has enjoyed her work as an Honors College fellow, and believes that students ought to take advantage of the resources a fellow can offer. The most rewarding experiences she has had with Honors College students have involved supervising research projects. Her advice to Honors College students was, "I really think that the most important thing that you young people can be are great leaders, that is deeply invested in the world around you. We need that, we need that desperately in this country right now. You need to be great citizens, that is, involved, informed and ready to act."



Professor Nancy Cirillo

# LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST- UIC'S SHINING NIGHT

CINDY SCHU

As an Honors College alumnus, I was honored to attend the kick-off of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Chicago International Film Festival on October 5. The indie film, "Stranger Than Fiction" was the opening-night selection. This movie is special to the hearts of the UIC family as it was filmed right on campus.

Having siblings that attend UIC, I heard about the distraction and annoyance – albeit "cool" and an honor – of having a film crew on campus, but as an alumnus, it was a proud moment to see UIC at its best on the big screen.

Not true star-struck people, my friend (also an alum) and I have never attended a world premiere before, and were impressed with the hoopla surrounding such an event. Hundreds of people stood outside the Chicago Theater – without tickets – waiting for a glimpse of their favorite star. Mayor Daley was there; Bill Kurtis emceed. All the papers covered the event. By the time I got home, the premiere was on the news.

The night was also special as one of the stars of the film, Dustin Hoffman, received the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. You hear about these things on the radio and TV, or read about them in People and Us Weekly. But here my friend and I were, watching Hoffman become part of cinematic history. CTA sweater-wearing co-star Will Ferrell (who was very out of 'normal' character in "Stranger Than Fiction," making me an

actual fan of his) made an appearance at the debut, honoring Hoffman.

The first scene with UIC brought a loud cheer from the balcony, which seated the 100 or so UIC students, faculty, staff and alumni in attendance. Douglas Hall, University Hall and the pool in the old athletic center were all stars in this film. (OK, so were other areas of the city, but who was looking at those places?)

Cleaned up impressively, Douglas Hall looked great. Even the bathroom got a chance to star, and it shined. Few students were used in the background, which was disappointing. I had hoped they would have shot a little more with the students moving around, like at a real college campus. And the scene in UH must have been filmed on a Saturday – there were two people walking outside; not exactly a "normal" day at UIC.

But UIC shined in this film. Never mentioned by name, the school offers the perfect scenery and background for a movie about an eccentric English lit professor (Hoffman) offering his expertise to Ferrell's character.

Overall, "Stranger Than Fiction" is indeed a strange movie. Had it not been filmed at UIC, the trailers probably wouldn't have caught my eye. But it was a shot of Hoffman and Ferrell in a classroom with windows that could only be at UIC that made me sit through the online trailer, and want to see the film. The story

itself wasn't exactly riveting. It features auditor Harold Crick (Farrell) who is living out the words of a reclusive author (Emma Thompson, in a very unglamorous role) who is trying to decide exactly how to kill off her main character. This is not exactly riveting, but being filmed in Chicago made it special. It was more fun to figure out where the characters were and which bus route they were on than following the actual story.

Not to spoil the ending – I won't give it away – but it wasn't as captivating as it could have been. The movie ends. That's it. It ends. It's not how I wanted it to end, either. I know my friend and I were disappointed in the movie overall. But, on a positive note, the movie's moral is to live life to the fullest. As a character in the movie, UIC truly lived up to its fullest.

But on the whole, it was a fun night. From standing near the red carpet and watching the stars make their entrance to cheering for a shot of room 318 in Douglas Hall, the premiere was a night to remember.

*FYI: Stranger than Fiction opens in theatres on 11/7.*

*Cindy Schu is a UIC Honors College alumnus from the class of 1999. She is a 2006 graduate of Northwestern University's Integrated Marketing Communications Master's program, and currently works for Tribune Media Services as an Assistant Editor.*

## Stranger than Fiction

*"Hundreds of people stood outside the Chicago Theater – without tickets – waiting for a glimpse of their favorite star"*

# TUITION WAIVER RECIPIENTS

The following Honors College students were recently selected as Fall Tuition Waiver recipients.

Congratulations to all!

Somaiyya Ahmad, Teaching of History  
 Yasham Alam, Biological Sciences  
 Asima Ali, Biological Sciences  
 Susan Ashaye, Biochemistry  
 Katherine Burg, Psychology  
 Brooke Cadwell, Political Science, Economics  
 Mikolaj Czerwinski, Art History  
 Danea Deppert, Nursing  
 Oladimeji Fashola, Chemical Engineering  
 Alexey Finkel, Physics  
 Jessica Folkerts, Psychology  
 Timothy Gatz, a Criminal Justice  
 Gina Giglio, Biological Sciences,  
 Chemistry, Criminal Justice  
 Mariana Gomez, Neuroscience  
 Andrenne Grimes, Psychology  
 Jessica Harper, Biological Sciences  
 Giselle Hernandez, Psychology  
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## Shetret, cont'd. from page 5

sion the group members would “go at it,” said Shetret. Her friendships acquired a new complexity. However, Shetret attempted to see both sides of the issues by attending functions for the people with both the Muslim and Israeli point of view. Her friends appreciated this gesture because many of them held on to their own ideas without evaluating both sides of the issue.

With respect to the conflict in the Middle East, Shetret learned that the problems cannot be solved easily. She entered the summer with the mindset that someone could just say, “Let’s sit down and do this boys,” and both sides of the issue could come to an agreement. She came to find out that Palestinians and Israelis have such polarized views that it makes it practically impossible for them to negotiate. The people with whom she worked had been working with the Middle East problems for years believe that peace may never actually be possible. “It changes your perspective,” she said. “I learned enough there to earn probably two degrees.”

Liat would like to thank the Honors College, the Political Science Department, and the Psychology Department for helping to make her internship happen.

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

Are you interested in writing for The Ampersand? The Ampersand is open and eager to accept submissions from all Honors College students.

Please contact Steve Kotsiris at [skotsi3@uic.edu](mailto:skotsi3@uic.edu) or Jennifer Kosco at [jkosco@uic.edu](mailto:jkosco@uic.edu) if you are interested.



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