

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

January 2002

## Important Upcoming Dates

Study Abroad Info. Session	Wed., Jan. 30
Honors College Tuition Waiver Apps. Due	Fri., Feb. 1
Phi Eta Sigma Officer Apps. Due	Fri., Feb. 1
ASB Auction	Tues., Feb. 5

## Honors College Ball Set for March 9th!

The Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) presents "Wonderful Tonight," the ninth annual Honors College Ball on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Ball will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago located at 151 East Wacker Drive, which is just a block east of Michigan Avenue.

Plans are underway for this elegant evening, which will start at 6:00 p.m. with a string quartet playing during cocktail hour, followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Shortly afterwards, the D.J. will fire up his turntable, and the dancing will begin!

The attire for the event is formal, black-tie optional. Come on! It's fun to get dressed up once in a while!

Tickets go on sale in the lobby of Burnham Hall on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are only \$32 for students and \$42 for faculty and staff. Contact Jenna Kim at [jkim110@uic.edu](mailto:jkim110@uic.edu) with any questions.

## Next Social is February 8th

The next HCAB social is Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Honors College Lounge.

This is a fun, informal way for you to relax and kick off your weekend and chat with your fellow students, as well as Honors College faculty and staff.

Watch your email for more details!

## Visit the Honors College Tutoring Center

It's a great thing to be an Honors College student and even greater that so many resources are available to you! One of these is tutoring at the Honors College Tutoring Center. If you are starting to struggle in a class or just want to pop in for help on a question or two, tutors are available and waiting for you! Just walk in and start working right away.

Tutoring schedules are available on the literature rack in the Honors College main lobby. With so many great Honors College students as tutors, you can find one to help you in the class you need at the time that works best for you.

The Tutoring Center is open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in Room B21 on the lower level of Burnham Hall.

## Do You Have Your Honors College Sticker Yet?

In case you have not yet done so, stop by the Honors College front desk and pick up your Honors College I-card sticker for the spring 2002 semester.

This sticker is necessary for ID checks in the computer lab, student lounge, and other Honors College facilities.

## Office of Special Scholarship Programs

Are you interested in finding out about the application process for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Gates Cambridge, and Fulbright scholarships? If so, you should make an appointment with the Office of Special Scholarship Programs to learn what is necessary to prepare.

Contact Director Beth Powers at 355-3380 or [bpowers@uic.edu](mailto:bpowers@uic.edu), or stop by the office, located in Room 120A SEO.

For more information, see their website: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp/>



## Phi Eta Sigma Officers Wanted!

Would you like to be an officer of the national freshman honor society of Phi Eta Sigma? If you are currently a Phi Eta Sigma member, and are interested in serving as an officer for the coming year, please stop by the Honors College and fill out an application (available in the literature rack in the lobby).

Applications are due by Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>; turn them in at the Honors College front desk.

## Changes?

If you have recently moved, changed your phone number, major, or any other pertinent information, please let us know by filling out a "Change of Information" form. They are available in the literature rack in the Honors College lobby.

Thank you.

## Going Once, Going Twice...It's SOLD!

Come to this year's Alternative Spring Break auction & place your bid on many exciting items, including:

- \* Tickets to the Bulls/Wizards game
- \* Sony 60 CD Changer
- \* Chicago Wolves tickets
- \* Improv Olympics tickets
- \* Ravinia lawn passes
- \* Hotel Monaco gift certificate
- \* Salsa lessons
- \* Chicago Blackhawks tickets

...and much, much more!

When: Tuesday, February 5th

Where: CCC - White Oak Room and Cardinal Room

Time: Silent Auction: Noon - 7 p.m.

Live Auction: 6 - 8 p.m. (Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.)

And, featuring the return of our guest auctioneer Ray Clay (the voice of the Chicago Bulls)!

There will be music, refreshments, door prizes, and fun guaranteed for all. So bring your cash or checkbooks (all items must be paid for at the auction) and get ready for an exhilarating evening of bidding fun!

FYI: ALL money raised will go directly to fund ASB trips. ASB is dedicated to education through community service and hands-on learning in order to prepare students to become responsible leaders of the future.

For more information, visit the ASB office: Room 514, CCC

Phone: (312) 355-0499

[http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/service/asb](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/service/asb)



## JPHAS is Seeking Contributing Writers

Thinking of maybe becoming a nurse, physical therapist, dentist or physician? Interested in learning how bioterrorism has affected research funding or in profiling a day in a life of an academic researcher, health policy maker, or a nurse? Interested in interviewing UIC's very own Macarthur Scholar who has chosen to united art with science?

Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS) is currently seeking Contributing Writers for its Spring 2002 Issue! JPHAS is a new student-run undergraduate publication for pre-health students.

Interested in becoming a Contributing Writer? To check out the list of currently open Article Topics, see below, or visit JPHAS online at: <http://www2.uic.edu/orgs/jphas>.

If you are interested in writing an article on any of the topics below OR if you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the Editors-in-Chief by **\*\*Monday, January 28th\*\*** by emailing [jphas@hotmail.com](mailto:jphas@hotmail.com)

In your email, please include 2 to 3 topic preferences (if possible) and a current phone number where you can be easily reached.

Read the first issue of JPHAS online at <http://www2.uic.edu/orgs/jphas>

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## Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Donald A. Chambers

by Jenna Kim



Dr. Donald Chambers

He's the only faculty member at UIC to be the head of two different departments in two different colleges. His research is routinely published in distinguished national and international journals. In 1993, he organized and chaired an international meeting in Chicago sponsored by UIC, Oxford and the New York Academy of Sciences celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Watson and Crick paper reporting the structure of DNA. The proceedings of the meetings were published as a book, which he edited. He collaborates with researchers at many institutions around the world including Oxford, University of Bern, University of Vienna, and the University of Graz, Austria as well as institutions in the U.S. including Pennsylvania State University and the University of California at San Francisco. He's a fellow of Green College Oxford, and of course the UIC Honors College. He is none other than our featured fellow Dr. Donald Chambers, Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Medicine and Director of the Center for Molecular Biology of Oral Diseases in the College of Dentistry.

Born and raised in the Bronx area of New York, Dr. Chambers began his academic career as a student at Columbia University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and biology, followed by a doctorate in biochemistry. He was also a fellow at Harvard Medical School. The degrees were followed up with a post-doctoral appointment at the University of California-San Francisco where he was also an assistant professor. As an associate professor, Dr. Chambers taught at University of Michigan, before coming to assume teaching and administrative positions at UIC, where he has been for the past 23 years.

Dr. Chambers' Honors College advisees are GPPA pre-medical students, many of them biochemistry majors. This is why I was apprehensive when I first met Dr. Chambers and blurted out, "I'm not a Biochemistry major any more." To my surprise, Dr. Chambers just looked at me with a smile and said, "That's great!" I was glad that he wasn't upset by the fact I had made a 180 degree turn by deciding to major in psychology and art history instead of biochemistry. However, I wasn't sure how he could advise me on these majors.

After the first five minutes of talking to Dr. Chambers, I realized that it didn't matter what degree I was trying to earn. As a fellow, Dr. Chambers was sincerely interested in what excited me, even if it wasn't biochemistry, and also how I was dealing with being a student at UIC. He was encouraging and more than willing to help me plan my future as a student at UIC, and to also to see the larger picture of my undergraduate education. He achieved this as he helped me see how all the courses I was taking, whether it be chemistry or art history, could all be integrated to help me prepare for my future profession and to better understand the world in general.

When asked what the best advice he gives to his students is, Dr. Chambers replies that he encourages his students "to be curious and to do whatever you can to achieve a liberal arts education." He wants all his students to end up as critical thinkers. While college provides the basic tools to prepare for a career, it should also be a time to learn the excitement of learning and develop into a self-learner. Dr. Chambers believes that by understanding philosophy, art, literature, and history along with the sciences, a student can acquire the tools to become a cultured and interested member of society.

When he is not busy giving great advice to students and fulfilling his many duties in academia, among other activities, Dr. Chambers enjoys traveling, but traveling with a purpose. Much of his travel is related to scientific collaboration and to overseeing the UIC-Green College, Oxford Collaborative Program. As a Fellow of Green College, he initiated and continues to direct the program.

Also, finding enjoyment in athletics and having once actively participated in basketball, softball, and volleyball, Dr. Chambers now runs two or three miles a day on the treadmill. Lastly, he also likes to read and write as he tries to read at least one book a week that is unrelated to his profession and writes both professionally and for pleasure.

## Inspiration is All Around You

by Natasha Singh

Open your eyes and look around you right now. Scan who's there. There's the kid you had a class with three semesters ago; there's that same person you see in the computer lab after your last class; there's your old TA and you wonder if he even remembers you. We come across people from all walks of life at UIC and even after spending entire semesters in the same class or having worked on projects together, we often know very little about each other.

For me, one of the key factors that most attracted me to UIC and the Honors College was the people I met before I had decided to attend school here. And, since then, bumping into a distant acquaintance, sitting in on a student-run meeting, or prompting a conversation with a smile have all introduced me to some of the most amazing and brightest personalities I've ever met.

Faculty, administrators, and especially students on this campus have had such amazing experiences and have studied such fascinating aspects in their field of interest, but we don't often really get to know about the accomplishments of these great, yet unknown achievers. I'm not talking about those students and faculty who have won awards, written books or done breakthrough research, though UIC is hardly lacking in any of those kinds of winners. I'm alluding to the lesser-known heroes of UIC and the Honors College, our peers and our educators. What I've come to learn is that each student is carrying a world of responsibilities, and heart full of passions and a mind full of interests, and each person has a story to share that is unique and inspiring.

Students, faculty, and staff alike invest their lives into improving UIC and the surrounding community each day, by creating intellectual and social opportunities, as well as reaching out to the underprivileged within our community. Professors, TA's and even visiting assistants to the deans have a wealth of experience and insight that is so positive and refreshing if we take the time out to care...to care about learning from each other, and care about learning for ourselves.

(cont'd. on next page)

# AACC Update

by Pius Wong

On January 14, 2002, members of the Asian American Coalition Committee (AACC) met with interim Provost Charlotte Tate to discuss her response to a business plan submitted to her last November for an Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Members of the Chancellor's Committee for the Status of Asian Americans were also present, along with Undergraduate Student Government President Brian Crowe. Tate strongly supports the establishment of an AARCC, but in the face of recent budget constraints, the center will have to start smaller than originally proposed.

The AARCC will be the first of its kind in the entire Midwest, and its establishment will be a major milestone in the continuing UIC student effort to address the needs of Asian American students on campus. Previous campaigns for such Asian American resources have been rejected since 1991 because of budget issues.

"The University is experiencing its first major budget cut since 1991," Tate explained, "it's just terrible timing." Tate stressed that although the current budget limitations may reduce the scope of AARCC's beginnings, they do not reduce her support of the center. "I asked [AACC] and Mo-Yin to put together a framework for discussion and I must admit that this proposal is the most impressive document I have seen in years," Tate commended. She firmly agrees that there is a need for such resources on campus, and she hopes to see the vision of the business plan realized in the future.

Regarding the Provost's concerns that the establishment of the AARCC would take away funds from other programs, AACC member and PhD candidate John Park emphasized, "This is not a bipolar issue. The creation of this Center will not simply or automatically cause faculty to lose jobs. We just have to carefully analyze how we can work with the budget to obtain the funding for this necessary part of UIC."

Meeting members agreed that the next logical immediate step in establishing the AARCC is to secure a director, as well as a programming budget and an assistant or support staff. In light of current budget issues, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Barbara Henley suggested, "You have to be creative in how you're going to staff this Center. The director would have to hold a dual position, especially in the beginning." Along these lines, the AARCC director hire would also hold a tenured teaching position in the appropriate LAS department, as was suggested by AACC and Mo-Yin Tam, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in the original business proposal submitted in November.

With the arrival of a new provost in fall 2002, students are concerned with the continuity of support for the AARCC in the future. However, undergraduate AACC member Catherine Kuo said, "The hiring of a director for the Center will help ensure that our vision is being realized. It will create a permanent position in the University to spearhead Asian American causes on campus."

Recognizing the importance of the director, Provost Tate will work with Vice Chancellor Lim and Associate Dean Tam to map out how to establish directorship of the AARCC with the current budget situation, and they will present the plan one month after the January 14th meeting. "We will put something together for directorship - I don't know how we're going to do it, but we'll do it. We will deliver something. You can count on it," Tate declared at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Asian American Coalition Committee is an umbrella organization of Asian American student organizations at UIC. It aims to unify Asian American students to strengthen their voice on campus, to educate the entire UIC community about issues concerning Asian Americans, and to empower Asian American students through their gaining visibility and representation.

# Inspiration

(cont'd. from previous page)

Let's look at each other and consider it an opportunity. Let's open our hearts and engage in conversation and debates about anything and everything, and discover how we all work, believe, and connect. Let's stop being satisfied with just our own way of thinking and bravely enter new friendships with our minds wide open and ready to explore.

# Thoughts

by Justin Sadhu

the sun lingers as of late  
throwing its rays across the barren land  
the earth is covered with a crystal mesh  
we breathe in, breathe out ice  
and breaths come in short puffs

shimmering puddles glint  
beckon with their mystery  
liquid water held tightly by the throat  
so alive, yet so frozen  
life in midstep

the v's have long passed overhead  
geese heralding the changes to come  
they seek better pasture  
and their calls drift away...  
Who guides them on their path?

for a season, man is humbled  
seeks shelter, heads for warmth  
the bustle dies down  
and life settles to a comfortable pace

alas! the peace will not last  
soon enough the winter will be forgotten  
as old dreams are tossed into the wind  
and new ones sprout wings

it is as it has always been  
sages of millennia past could have  
saved us the trouble  
"there is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under  
heaven"

time passes as the leaves are scattered  
the wind blows and they are gone  
life blooms, then dies once more  
let us take hold of the life that is truly life  
and stop chasing after the wind  
i see the green pastures  
o Shepherd, lead me home

## Honors College Students Star on UIC Mock Trial Team

On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, UIC Mock Trial Team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Northwestern Invitational Tournament. At the tournament, **Neil Iyengar\*** won an outstanding witness award for his role as a doctor of forensic pathology. Jason Lagen won an outstanding witness award for his role as a security guard. **Jennifer Holder\***, Captain of the team, won an outstanding attorney award. When the standings were announced the coordinator commended UIC for their performance and highlighted that their achievement was made without a coach. The UIC team is the only team to compete at this level without a coach. All the help that they do receive comes from meeting with attorney Pat Reardon and Judge A.C. Cunningham once a week at the Daley Center.

The tournament consisted of 4 trials; each trial was 3 hours long, during which students acted as attorneys and witnesses. This year's case is The State of Midlands VS. Ashley T. Thornhill. Ashley Thornhill is accused of murdering her boss, a partner at the prestigious advertising firm of Tucker, Roberts and Payne. The team competes as both prosecution and defense, taking on each side twice in tournament and competing against other teams at the tournament. There were 34 teams at the tournament this weekend including Columbia University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois State University, Lake Forest College, Lewis University, North Central College, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, UCLA, University of Chicago, University of Dayton, University of Illinois- Champaign, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of St. Francis, and Western Michigan University.

Members of this team are **Jill Aguado\***, Jackelin Brooks, Laura Byrne, Elizabeth Colsant, **Jennifer Holder\***, **Neil Iyengar\***, Jason Lagen, **Ana Petrovic\***, and Ian Williams. The hard work that the team puts in includes meeting a minimum of 6 hours a week in class; they spend 3 hours practicing downtown at the Daley Center. They start practicing in October at which time they begin to learn the case problem for the year as well as trial technique. Mock Trial is most similar to the Trial Advocacy class that students take their 2<sup>nd</sup> year in law school.

Laura Byrne the team's Co-Captain said, "I am very proud of our team. Their hard work and dedication is what has brought the team as far as it has come. Professionalism is what sets this team apart from all other teams. I speak for the entire team when I say UIC will be a major player not only at the regional tournament but also at the national championship tournament. We are confident that we will be bring home a trophy for UIC."

If you are interested in finding out more about the UIC Mock Trial Team please contact **Jennifer Holder** at [jholde2@uic.edu](mailto:jholde2@uic.edu)

*\*Denotes Honors College students*

## A New Perspective

*by Nafisa Patel*

One of the greatest advantages I have discovered during my time here at UIC is the abundance of research facilities. When I first came to UIC, the whole concept of research seemed intimidating because the research being conducted was what I was reading about in the newspapers; much of it was the cutting edge of technology and I felt that I was nowhere near ready to participate in such an activity.

My experience in research started last summer as I looked around for available positions. Since there are so many labs on campus, I emailed several professors asking if any of them needed help in their labs. Sure enough, a few had space, and I was lucky because I was able to pick a project I was interested in. I chose to work in Dr. Jennifer Schmidt's lab in the Biological Sciences department. Her lab is working to understand genomic imprinting in mice. Basically, genomic imprinting causes one copy of a gene to be silenced; rendering it useless while the other dominates expression. About one half of imprinted genes have something to do with growth, with different genes being either maternally or paternally imprinted. Geneticists are just beginning to understand imprinting, but the significance and reasons behind imprinting remain undiscovered.

When I first walked into Dr. Schmidt's lab, I was instantly intimidated by all of the equipment, and also because of the fact that I had not yet taken a biology class at UIC. The graduate students were busy at work, and it seemed so serious. I expected to be doing the grunt work in the lab, but my first day was quite busy and interesting. I started on a project involving an imprinting assay to ultimately determine if two particular genes were imprinted or not. Surprisingly, the assay actually worked with some success; however, I learned that the research process can be very tedious and slow.

After learning that making mistakes is perfectly ok, and that everyone occasionally messes up protocols that take days, I realized that research isn't something that can be done quickly or carelessly. Everything needs to be documented and checked to the very last micro liter in your automatic pipette. Never before did such precision matter.

Later as the summer went on and my technical skills improved, I attended lab meetings to learn about my own project's significance to the lab's main project and also attended various graduate students Master's theses defenses and seminars on other lab's research. Additionally, I was also required to read related journal articles that further enhanced my understanding and ability.

Although at the time, much of it seemed extremely technical, the techniques and concepts I learned helped me in the fall semester. Engaging in hands-on learning enhanced my in-class experience more than I had thought possible. Overall, it inspired me to take a slight turn in my future goals as I am now interested in a career in medicine that will allow me to also conduct research.

Now every time I read about a new scientific discovery, I appreciate the years and extremely long days of frustration that the researchers must have endured. More importantly, though, I realize that it's definitely all worth it.

# Commuting—The Last “Class” of the Day

by Melissa Kramer

Left foot, right foot, left foot, right foot—the “cattle” are herded into the narrow train car doors, marking the beginning of the last “class” of the day. To survive this class, the classmates must be identified, the pitfalls must be discovered, and the tricks to succeed must be followed.

The fruit basket variety of classmates can be classified into six groups. First are the “droolers” who have stayed up too late, have worked too hard, and are letting it all hang out. Next are the “snorers” who exude a loud rumble that can be felt from many seats away, keeping the rest of us awake. Then there are the “head wobblers”, who, like the Taco Bell Chihuahua, rock back and forth in the battle between sleeping and staying awake. There are also the “drunkards” who grab their last beer as they jump on the train and inhale their drink only to pass out just before their stop. Next are the “cell phone users” who shout out their conversation for the whole train to hear, usually spreading interest as they discuss their personal life. Finally, there are the “seat hoggers” who place their bags next to them, not allowing others to have a seat.

After finding a seat next to a non-seat hogger, the pitfalls of “class” can be discovered. Inevitably, the person behind you is reading the paper and continually whacks you with the newspaper as they flip through the pages. If that does not keep you alert, the smell of food—cinnamon buns, french fries, and pizza—floating through the train will keep you awake and longing for the chance to get off the train to find food of your own. The milk run, which stops at every stop, will also keep you alert, as it is a train of pure agony. You know that you COULD make it home in 35 minutes, but this train will take an hour to finally get you there. Worst of all, sleep is usually impossible due to the constant jolting of the train as it stops every five minutes. Finally, if you are not on a milk run, there is no one bothering you, and your nose has not smelled any food, you fall into a deep sleep and miss your stop!

While there are negatives to this “class,” there are tricks to succeed. The first trick is to play the “where will the train stop?” game. This game is played by most commuters. As you walk up to the platform your eyes survey the crowd and the landmarks as you try to remember where the train stopped yesterday. When you win this game and the train stops with the entrance doors right in front of you, a feeling of joy overcomes you and your day seems a lot better. If you are not good at playing the train stop game, there is another way to make the experience somewhat enjoyable—get to know the conductor. With the conductor on your side, you will always have someone to talk to. This friendship will also ensure leniency if you forget your ticket. If the friendship lasts long enough you might even receive a Christmas card from your conductor.

So, by avoiding the unruly classmates, not concentrating on the pitfalls of the class, and using some tricks, you will succeed in the last class of the day.

# Fascinating Beijing

by Jodi Burns



Participating in the IES Great Cities-Beijing program last summer was by far the most enriching piece of my education at UIC. The six-week summer curriculum included several guest speakers, field trips, as well as instruction of basic Mandarin.

The experience enabled me to gain knowledge of China and its people that would have not been accessible by any other means.

In Beijing, we lived in comfortable dorm rooms in Beiwai Foreign Studies University. Each room had air conditioning and the floor has a full kitchen, lounge with DVD, and a computer room. The campus is diverse with Chinese students as well as students from all over the world.

The guest speakers who came to the Urban Studies lectures were excellent resources. We were able to talk with a reputable political official who discussed the Chinese constitution and political system as well as women’s issues. Urban Studies professors from various universities spoke on environmental issues and comparisons of urban and rural China. A notable architect came to discuss the challenges of modernizing Chinese cities while preserving culture. Furthermore, a famous artist spoke to us and demonstrated his talent.

Several field trips were scheduled for our group. We visited various communities within the city of Beijing. Some were struggling and others were benchmarks for urban development. We were shown all of the ‘must sees’ of the Beijing area: The Forbidden City, Imperial Summer Palace, Tian’anmen Square, Buddhist temples and gardens. On the way to hike a special section of the Great Wall (well preserved and not as touristy), we had a rare opportunity to observe conditions in a poor farming village. Additionally, a brief home stay with a Chinese family was a chance to experience traditions and hospitality first hand. We were taken to many exquisite restaurants and attended a Chinese acrobat show and traditional Chinese opera. All of the trips were arranged by the IES faculty and were included in tuition.

There is no previous language requirement for the Beijing program. Before classes began, we had a Mandarin assessment exam and then we were placed into the appropriate level of instruction. There were three to four students per class and we were assigned private tutors as well. The curriculum consisted of learning to speak conversational Mandarin, and writing and recognizing Chinese characters. In addition to language and urban studies classes, optional cultural classes were offered including Chinese cooking, the ancient art of calligraphy, and martial arts.

In Chinese culture, a very important social element is “guanxi,” or connections. The IES faculty in Beijing had established many relationships that enabled our group to learn things that would have not been possible otherwise. This program was well organized and full of adventures and learning experiences. It was an experience I will cherish forever.

For more information on this program, visit the Study Abroad Office website: [http://www.uic.edu/depts/spec\\_prog/studyabroad/](http://www.uic.edu/depts/spec_prog/studyabroad/) , or attend the Information Session on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Honors College conference room.



Britney in her Mickey Mouse Club days

# Does Britney Spears Drive You Crazy?

by Anne Sromek

Do you remember the day you saw Britney Spears for the first time? Most likely, you saw her first in her classic 'Baby, One More Time' video. Maybe you even remember her from her earlier work, like the Mickey Mouse Club. It doesn't really matter where you first saw her. She's gone from an energetic kid who loved to dance and sing to the proclaimed Pop

Princess of the World.

Since she first burst onto the pop music scene and into the dreams of millions of adolescent boys, she's tried to shed her pre-teen image for a new adult image, made millions of dollars, released multiple records, done charity work, toured the world, made a movie, and has continued to date Timberlake. She's also human.

So why does everyone rip on Britney? I am among those who feel that Britney doesn't deserve the bad rap she's been getting. Just yesterday I overheard someone talking about her at UIC. "She can't sing. She's got no talent. She doesn't even write her own songs. I watched her HBO special, and at the end, she was so annoying...". All I have to say, my friends, is this: **WHY WOULD YOU WATCH HER SPECIAL UNTIL THE END IF YOU WERE SO ANNOYED AT HER?**

True, she didn't write any of her songs from her first few albums, but she's making a sincere effort in trying to co-write some lyrics in her future work. You can't hate her because of the following: the music world usually doesn't let artists do their own thing until they've established themselves as profitable.

Now maybe it's just the Finance Major in me talking, but think about it a minute. Each artist that a label takes under its wing is a huge investment. Not only does the company have to promote this person, they also have to create an image, advertise, put on concerts for exposure, etc. If the artist is unprofitable, the company loses money, and they're not happy. With that in mind, the labels try to prevent this money loss by bringing in experienced writers, producers, stylists, etc. to try and help the chances of success for their new star.

Britney was barely 15 when she began her solo singing career. She had a huge amount of experience from her childhood with Disney. She is also a very good singer (I know many of you would beg to differ), and an accomplished dancer. Surely, her label made her into a sort of adolescent experiment, and didn't allow her to be herself completely. Before you rip on her for not sticking up for herself, remember yourself at 15, and tell me you weren't able to be influenced by others easily.

I personally like Britney. You may hate her for your own reasons, but try and find where this hate is stemming from. She has no personal life because her life is such a controversial and hot topic. All the tabloids would love to expose her even more and make her into some sort of hypocrite or "bad girl"...just so cynical people could shout "I TOLD YOU SO!"

Britney, in my eyes, and in my opinion, is a superior entertainer. Even if you don't like her music, or her acting, or her image, you just can't stop watching her. She's on the radio and on MTV at all hours of the day. She's got a great relationship with her parents. Almost everyone around the globe knows who you're talking about if you say "Britney." She's made such a huge impression on the world...something other artists can only wish to do.

Now let's talk about J. Lo for a minute. She can dance. She can dress well. She came from a humble background. She's a good role-model. She can act. Britney, too, has accomplished all of the above. The only difference is that J. Lo, or Jennifer Lopez, whatever you want to call her, CAN'T SING. She can try. But she can't sing. Her songs are chock-full of flat vocals that make me cringe. Even the boppy pop music in the background doesn't cover up those horrible attempts at singing.

So why does Britney get all the bad report cards? You don't have to like her, but cut her some slack. She's just trying to live her dream, and I personally think she's darn good at it, too.

Questions and comments to Michelle Gentile and Jane Jih, Editors-in-Chief, via email to: [jphas@hotmail.com](mailto:jphas@hotmail.com)

## OPEN Article Topics for Spring 2002 Issue of JPHAS

### FEATURES

\* Profile of UIC Macarthur Scholar Inigo Manglano-Ovalle  
How this Associate Professor of Art and Architecture has chosen to unite art with science.

### PRE-HEALTH OUTLOOK

\* How Ratings of Health-Oriented Professional Schools Relates to Quality of Education

An investigative report on whether rankings of health-oriented professional schools in the Chicago-land area reflect the quality of education and training.

\* A Day in the Life of...

A profile of an UIC health professional who has integrated more than one discipline in their work, such as academic medicine and health policy and administration.

\* FYI: MD, DO, and DC

A look at the similarities and differences of approaches among medical, osteopathic, and chiropractic doctors.

### RESEARCH

\* Postdoctoral Career Advancements Problems associated with postdoctoral career advancements.

\* UIC Research and Technology in the News

Brief profiles of the newest health related innovations UIC has to offer.

\* Profile of an UIC Student Researcher Perspectives by students on their undergraduate research experiences.

\* How Bioterrorism has Affected Research Funding

Changes in societal beliefs and values toward research and research funding since bioterrorism threats.

### INVITED OPINIONS

\* Organs for Cash?

What are your thoughts on how health officials are considering paying potential organ donors for organs upon their death?

\* Herbal Supplements: Physical or Psychological Effect?

Are herbal supplements a placebo effect?

OR any other topics or ideas you have!

## Asian American Film Series

AACC is hosting UIC's first ever Asian American Film Series: 'Telling Our Stories,' a showcase of independent films dealing with Asian America.

The first viewing will show two video diaries that explore Southeast Asian American experiences. A short discussion will be held afterwards. The event is free and open to all. Free food and refreshments will be served.

3-5:30pm Monday, January 28  
Montgomery Ward Gallery, CCC (behind elevators in CCC)  
750 S. Halsted St.  
Chicago IL 60607

'Kelly Loves Tony' (Laotian, 57 min.)  
"...A very thoughtful examination of teenage pregnancy, the struggles of a young couple with a new baby, and the social and economic realities that come with being parents."--Alvin F. Poussaint, Harvard Medical School

'A.K.A. Don Bonus' (Cambodian, 55 min.)  
"Strong filmic 'diary'... An urban reality check both perilous and engaging."-- Variety

Sponsored by Asian American Coalition Committee, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans, and Campus Programs

For more information, please contact Natalie Garcia at ngarci8@uic.edu or Rena Patel at rpatel45@uic.edu

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## <http://www.hc.uic.edu>

Have you checked out the Honors College web page recently? Make sure you visit it regularly, as there are always updates of pertinent events, deadlines, as well as photographs of students and faculty at Honors College events. You just might see yourself there one of these days!

Here is just a partial list of some of the exciting information/links you'll find on the web page:

- Honors College student web pages; *send your URL to Jennifer Kosco at [jkosco@uic.edu](mailto:jkosco@uic.edu)*
- Honors College Handbook
- Honors College fellows' biographical information
- Undergraduate Research Assistant program
- Honors Course listings
- Honors College Tutoring schedule
- The Ampersand (dating back to April 1997!)
- Issues of Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS)
- Honors College affiliated student organizations, including:
  - o Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB)
  - o Society of Future Physicians
  - o Alternative Spring Break
  - o Phi Eta Sigma
  - o Phi Kappa Phi

And much more!

## Sci-Fi Movie Craze!

by Shifali Arora

Two of last year's most anticipated films were Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings. The first film is based on the first book of a series that, although it was written more than 45 years ago, has just recently become a phenomenon around the world due to the incredible popularity of the movie. The other is based on the first book of one of the most well known and widely read trilogies in history. Both take you out of the everyday into the world of fantasy. However, that is where their similarities end.

Harry Potter, the name that has become a household term within the last four years, is the lead character of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. This film is the first of a series of seven. Its story has crossed age boundaries; everyone can find some way to relate to the little boy who finds out he is a wizard. Well, maybe not everyone is a wizard, but everyone knows (or knew) someone in school like Draco Malfoy that they just did not get along with. On the flip side, though, everyone also has friends like Hermione and Ron, who would get in any kind of trouble or adventure to help you out.

The film follows the book closely and brings to life the tale of Harry's first year at a school of wizardry and his first of many battles with the evil Voldemorte. It is a lighthearted, yet excitement-filled film that everyone can see and enjoy.

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings is a film about Frodo Baggins and his adventures with a magical ring. The ring holds so much untapped evil power that Frodo is one of only a few that can handle the ring without being consumed by greed. His friend and fellowship member Gandolf starts him on his journey to correctly dispose of the ring with three of his friends. The fellowship begins with nine who hope to dispose of the ring forever, or at least protect Frodo from the evil that follows him in hopes of obtaining the ring.

The three-hour movie actually holds your attention to the point that, when it was over, I couldn't wait to find out what happens next. I guess I could read the book or I could just wait until December 2002 and see the second installment of the trilogy.

Although the book has a very wide fan base, the film is geared for a slightly older crowd. This is mainly due to the dazzling special effects, which are a huge focus of this film. Every creature the fellowship defeated (of which there were quite a few) was uniquely characterized and vividly and frighteningly portrayed. Of course, a seasoned viewer such as myself was not scared at all. (By the way, Lord of the Rings is also well viewed while peeking out from underneath your coat...don't ask me how I know this!)

In comparison to Harry Potter, the story also maintained a much more serious tone throughout the film. Themes such as greed, pride, fear, etc. make this more of a "thinking" movie in comparison to a "sit back, relax, and enjoy your popcorn" kind of a movie.

Both movies are definitely worth seeing, but both books are also well worth spending your time on as well. The books allow your own imagination to create the characters, while the films might help clarify parts of the book that were hard to conceptualize.

If you have read the books, you should go ahead and see the films. If you are like me and saw the movies first, and now want to read the books, do that too! Either way, enjoy!

# Making a Difference: A Week in Oklahoma City

by Joseph Shin

This past December, through an Alternative Spring Break volunteer program, 13 of us packed ourselves, a minimal amount of luggage and all, into the biggest 15-passenger Ford van we could find and headed down to Oklahoma City. We were going to help build quality affordable homes for low-income families as part of a Habitat for Humanity group.

We departed from Chicago the Saturday morning right after finals. Many of us were tired that morning from the exhaustion of exams, late nights celebrating another semester successfully completed, or simply because we weren't morning people. I think I fell into that last category. Surprisingly, though, that morning, as our team of thirteen joined over forty other ASB volunteers ready to depart UIC for destinations across the country, there was energy and anticipation building in the air and it filled that small corner of the Atrium with sounds of excited chatter.

I've been an ASB participant and board member for the past two years. I've become very familiar with the ASB mission statement and words like service and volunteerism, but that morning, I didn't just *know* the words; I really *felt* the excitement and meaning behind them and the difference that one person can truly make. We were in a group of over 50 volunteers preparing to leave for destinations all over the country to work with abused teens, HIV/AIDS patients, Native American youth and housing problems. The excitement was definitely in the air.

We finally departed in our sardine can-like van and proceeded swiftly on our 14-hour drive to Oklahoma City. It took us almost the entire day, but after making it safely through St. Louis, Kansas City and Tulsa, we made it to Oklahoma City by one o'clock in the morning. We dutifully called and woke our advisor Jennifer Kosco as soon as we got there safely; she instructed us to do so, no matter what time it was, so that she knew we all got there safe and sound.

The following day, Sunday, we got acquainted with the city, so different from Chicago. Despite the differences, this small city proved itself to be warm and welcoming. That same day, we visited the Oklahoma City bombing memorial. Since it was only a few months after the World Trade Center attacks, it was a truly somber and poignant visit. We took in the peace and tranquility of the reflecting pool and the rows of glistening chairs (each one representing a person whose life had been lost in the tragedy) on that sunny afternoon, silently moving through the memorial. In the museum, we saw artifacts from the bombing, including torn clothes, broken coffee mugs, and heaps of rubble. We read stories of heroism and tragedy, of collective horror and individual loss. Despite the overwhelming emotions and feelings of sadness the exhibits inspired, I felt that seeing them really brought every member of our team closer to this great country we live in.

Though the coming week of hard work would distract us from the things we saw and felt on Sunday, in hindsight, I feel that the unifying experience of the memorial and museum really stayed with us and inspired us as we built homes and served this community.

The rest of the week, we worked with the Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity crew. It was near the end of their annual cycle and so most of the homes were near completion. They had us working hard, landscaping, putting sod down, planting trees, painting, some framing, lumber work and of course, the most dreaded but most common task, clean up! It was hard work cleaning up stacks of lumber, brick and other debris, but our team was amazingly creative in finding fun ways to finish the task. On one occasion we were cleaning up a site using wheelbarrows to collect that debris and transport it to a burn pile in the back of the property. Spontaneously, we had just discovered a new event for the World's Strongest Man Competition, the newly patented and copyrighted "ASB Wheelbarrow Flip." We would stack tall piles of sheetrock, brick, and lumber into the wheelbarrows, and run them into the burn pile at full speed. I've personally never seen trash fly like that. Once, one of the wheelbarrows collided with the pile, and in an act of rage, one of the guys flipped the wheelbarrow while running at full speed, resulting in an eruption of dust and garbage straight up, at least seven feet into the air!

The work was hard, and sometimes we felt we weren't being utilized in the best ways. But, by the end of the week, after looking at small finished projects like a completed paint job or the transformation of a plot of dust and dirt into a green and landscaped yard, we felt proud of ourselves. We were helping to build a home (something that most of us often take for granted) for families that couldn't otherwise have one.

As a team, we talked a lot during the course of that week about our purpose in Oklahoma City. We discussed the worthiness of the recipients of social aid, the purpose of volunteerism, and our duties and responsibilities to ourselves and to others as residents of this country. To be honest, we had lots of arguments and debates, due to our individual personalities and/or the specific points being raised. Being able to freely talk about these things really challenged me to think about why I do what I do and why the thirteen of us gave up a week to build homes for people.

Ultimately, our team was an amazing, diverse, and passionate group, much like a reflection of this diverse and vibrant country. We all came from different places; we all came for different reasons; we all expected different things of this trip, but I think all of us gained a small, yet meaningful insight into the heart of volunteerism. It's one citizen helping another, not because someone says someone else deserves it, someone's political views, or some other lofty idea. It's just because it's the right thing to do, making a difference, whether big or small, improving the life of someone, somewhere. That's what ASB is all about!

See photos on next page...

To find out more and apply to go on an ASB trip over spring break, visit the ASB website: [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/service/asb/](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/service/asb/)  
Don't delay: participant applications are due Friday, February 1st!

## Photos from the Oklahoma City ASB Trip - December, 2002



Before we left in our spacious, luxurious "limousine"



The crew, in front of the house we worked on



Visiting the memorial wall at the Oklahoma City bombing site



Viewing the mementos of the wall