

THE AMPERSAND

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A NOTE FROM DEAN KAUFMAN

Just as the Ampersand has taken on a new look this year so has our space within Burnham Hall. The lounge has new carpet, paint, even a new location! The new computers in the new lab are faster and the new screens are flat. The quiet

study room is about to become a library. We invite everyone in the Honors Community to come by, enjoy the friendly confines of Burnham Hall and help us plan the next project on the list- a new student org's room. Enjoy the spring.



Dean Lon Kaufman

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ERIN OLSEN

The Eighth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm in the Illinois Room of the Student Center East (SCE).

This year, the URS will be part of a larger campus-wide event called the UIC Student Research Day which will showcase both undergraduate and graduate student research. Undergraduates from all disciplines, including physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities, are welcome and encouraged to present their research at this event. Students who submit abstracts are expected to give a 7-10 minute poster presentation to judges consisting of UIC faculty and alumni. Winners will be chosen in each category and awarded cash prizes. The Symposium is

growing every year, attracting more student researchers than the year before. The committee hopes to see this trend continue, and with your help, this year's Symposium will be a success. The committee is also planning to hold several workshops on poster planning and presentation to help students prepare their projects, so please take advantage of the opportunity to polish your skills.

Movement Science major Zarina Tchibekova participated in last year's Symposium. She was enthusiastic about her experience, to say the least! She said, "Participating in the Undergraduate Research Symposium was the culminating event of my initial research project. This forum provided me with the

opportunity to reflect on and examine my studies from a different perspective. This was a great learning experience.

"It is my sincere opinion that an undergraduate research experience is not complete without participation in a forum such as URS. This allows the student a chance to put all the pieces of acquired knowledge and skills together and to appreciate their work to a great extent."

The deadline to submit abstracts is **March 31, 2007**. Visit our website <http://tigger.uic.edu/orgs/urs/index.html> for more information and feel free to contact us with questions at uic.urs@gmail.com.

What do you like about the Honors College?



Christian Garcia

"I like the Honors College lounge. And the free staples I get there!"



Kausika Maddali

"I love playing the violin for the Honors College String Ensemble."



Laurel Park

"I like the fact that the Honors College offers interesting core classes, and I really enjoy my Honors Core class: Gender and the Family."



Sarah Green

"Living on the Honors College floor is fun. I also like all the socials hosted by the Honors College."

COLLEGES AGAINST CANCER HOSTS UIC'S FIRST RELAY FOR LIFE

JACQUELINE HARTFORD

Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) is a new student organization at UIC. It is affiliated with the American Cancer Society and was brought here last year when preliminary steps were taken to make it a viable campus organization. This year, CAC is hosting UIC's first Relay For Life. The event will be held from 7 pm on Friday, April 6th until 7 am on Saturday, April 7th at the new recreation center on Halsted Street. The theme this year will be "Superheroes." Participants form teams and at least one member from each team will walk around the track at all times during the event.

Each team member is expected to raise \$100 before the event.

Members of CAC hope that, because of UIC's location in the city, many people will attend the event and make it a success. The main goal of the event is to raise money for cancer research. Cancer survivors are encouraged to attend, as Relay is a testament to their success and an inspiration for those who are battling the disease. A special survivors' lap will be featured.

Relay for Life teams can consist of up to fifteen people. On other college campuses, various student organizations have formed

teams, dressed up and had themes. If any student organization, or group of students in general, would like to sign up for Relay, they can do so online. Anybody can attend Relay For Life, as CAC wants this event to be as lucrative and successful as possible.

One of the main objectives of CAC is to spread cancer awareness through activities such as passing out information about breast cancer in SCE during October, breast cancer awareness month. As a young organization at UIC, CAC is trying new activities and is constantly looking for new members.

For More Information:

To Register a team for Relay: <http://www.acsevents.org/relay/il/uic>

CAC Facebook Group: <http://uic.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2235055273> (TEAM RECRUITMENT -- UIC Relay For Life '07)

Or email:

Jessica Vandiver (Team Recruitment Chair) – jvandi2@uic.edu

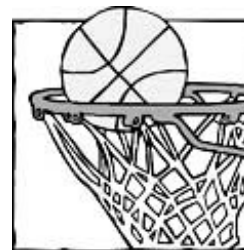
Danielle Majerczyk (Relay For Life Executive Chair) - dmajer2@uic.edu

BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT

MATTHEW BEARD

Swish! Nothing but net! A perfect free throw from Honors College Dean Lon Kaufman, during the shootout at the February 7th basketball game between UIC and Wright State. The shootout is held annually. The Deans of all the colleges at UIC are paired with a student partner who get 30 seconds each to make as many free throws as possible. Unfortunately for Kaufman, he would not be able to repeat the same success of

the one basket he made. It certainly wasn't from a lack of effort as Kaufman consistently sent basketball after basketball towards the hoop during his 30 second time limit. His partner, student Peter Majay, helped out by sinking five baskets, bringing the total to six. However, the College of Medicine made an incredible 17 baskets and took home the trophy. The UIC basketball team lost their game 64-74 in overtime.



HOMework HOTLINE RECOGNIZED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On Thursday, January 18th, at their annual meeting, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois recognized the accomplishments of the Honors College through its years of service to NBC/Telemundo Homework Hotline. Honors College member and Student Trustee Edgar Staren read a resolution at the meeting which read, in part: "The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois sincerely appreciates and recognizes the dedicated commitment, leadership, and volunteerism demonstrated by students from the Honors College and the Urban Health Program in their service of homework assistance to Chicago-area school children.

Further, the proclamation continued, "The Homework Hotline is a fine example of how UIC continues to fulfill its mission of access to excellence and its commitment of engagement with the city. Through its partnership with the NBC5/Telemundo Homework Hotline, UIC offers academic excellence just a phone call away— free to all Chicago area school children.

The Board of Trustees hereby recognizes and commends the UIC Honors College and the Urban Health Program for their exceptional example of student volunteerism, contributing to a vital campus life, a meaningful educa-

tional experience, and a better society.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated into the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given to the Honors College and the Urban Health Program, as a permanent reminder of the esteem in which they are held."

Chancellor Manning recognized several Honors College Hotline volunteers who were present at the meeting. She introduced them individually and again, commended them for their dedication and service. The students in attendance were: Aaditi Dubale, Senior, Sociology; Ginelle Earling, Junior, Economics/English; Emily Finchum, Junior, Biology/Chemistry; Kristopher Kubaczyk, Junior, Teaching of Secondary Mathematics; and Amber Orenstein, Junior, Economics/History.

In the ten years that UIC has partnered with NBC, over 400 Honors College students have participated in the Hotline. One night a week, students travel to NBC Tower to answer the phones when Chicago area school kids call in for help with their homework. Questions come in from students in grades kindergarten through seniors in high school. Students want help in all subjects, but the ma-

majority of questions are for math and science problems.

Among the students honored at the Trustees meeting, two recent Hotline volunteers shared their thoughts on their experience. Kristopher Kubaczyk said about his experience at the Hotline, "It felt good to help students understand their homework. When the students understood something that they didn't before due to your guidance, it gives you a good feeling inside. That just made my day, and I would recommend this activity as a volunteer project for anyone.

Amber Orenstein echoed Kris' sentiments. She says, "In many cases, the calls are from children who call on a regular basis. These kids are the ones I especially love to help because I can remember them from all their previous calls and see how much progress they have made, which I hope is at least in part due to us at the Homework Hotline." Orenstein continues, "I found myself speaking to children I spoke with last semester at the Hotline. The "regulars" who call are so unbelievably grateful that they have somewhere to turn with their homework questions. Their honest words of gratitude make any sacrifice of my time more than worth it."

"In the ten years that UIC has partnered with NBC, over 400 Honors College students have participated in the Hotline."

FOCUS ON A FELLOW: R. PAUL MALCHOW

CAITLIN COHN

R. Paul Malchow is an associate professor of biology and has recently been appointed Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. He also recently received a two year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Through this grant, he will be on the East Coast doing research until next August. In addition, he is an Honors College fellow and has worked with many students over the years.

Professor Malchow became interested in science at the age of five or six, but it was his high school biology teacher who inspired him and several other students to study biology. He describes teacher's enthusiasm for biology as "simply infectious." In college, he double majored in biology and psychology with a minor in chemistry. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in biological sciences with an emphasis in neurobiology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (incidentally, the same place Dean Kaufman earned his Ph.D.). I asked Professor Malchow to define neurobiology, and he explained that, "the neurosciences are a discipline in which one can study the physical basis of such things as thoughts, perception and emotion. It allows us to ask what roles cells and chemicals play in those processes."

During the duration of his grant from the NSF, Professor Malchow is the program director and is handling applications in the areas of animal sensation and movement as well as computational neuroscience. Malchow describes computational neuroscience as "intense computational modeling of the nervous system. This can be as simple as modeling the activity of a single cell protein or as complicated as modeling the complex interactions between cells and neurons and trying to model the behavior of an organism."

Malchow's research focuses on cellular and molecular mechanisms that shape our perception of the world. Some of his studies are conducted at UIC, but he also does research at marine biology labs in Massachusetts. There are

two main species on which his research is focused: skates and channel catfish. Skates are closely related to stingrays, but do not have stingers. They are particularly useful for this kind of research because their retinal cells are very large,

which makes experimentation easier. Malchow said, "Experiments involve creating cell cultures from the retinas of these animals and using special sensors to detect the release and uptake of a number of neuroactive chemicals."

I asked him what he is enjoying most about his experience working with the NSF. Professor Malchow stated that he has been given a broader view and paraphrased an adage referring to the problem with becoming an expert. "As you go up the academic trail, you know more and more about less and less. Sometimes you have to take a breath and look at the wider world." He has gotten a chance to do just that with his position as program director.

I also inquired about his appointment as the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. He is looking forward to taking part in developing university-wide programs of teaching and learning. He will focus on faculty development, that is, helping faculty members to be the most effective instructors they can be.

Professor Malchow is also interested in students becoming effective scholars. He advises students to look widely at their educational options while at UIC. He said, "Don't be afraid to take that choral course even if you're a biology student. Don't be afraid to take an economics course if you're an engineer. You will benefit from the experience." His last piece of advice is to students is to take part in the upcoming Undergraduate Research Symposium, which would be another beneficial experience.



R. Paul Malchow

STRING ENSEMBLE ENTERTAINS AROUND CAMPUS

JOEL EBERT

Proving yet again that there are many talented Honors College students, the Honors College String Ensemble (HCSE) is looking at a busy performance schedule for the remainder of the spring semester.

Led by current president Jessica Sheng, the HCSE has performed at events such as last year's Honors College Ball; an induction ceremony

for the national honors society for freshman, Phi Eta Sigma; the Honors College Convocation reception; an event for the University of Illinois Alumni Association; and also weddings. A spring semester concert is currently being planned for sometime in April.

Currently consisting of six violinists, two cellists and one classical guitar, the

HCSE rehearses once a week for two hours. Auditions to join the ensemble occur in the beginning weeks of the fall semester and membership lasts throughout the spring semester. The only requirement to join the ensemble is to own an instrument and to be classically trained on it.

All HC students have the opportunity to join the HCSE executive board.
(Continued on next page)

FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR. Z. JIM WANG

JACQUELINE HARTFORD

Dr. Z. Jim Wang is an Honors College fellow for students interested in pharmacy. At the College of Pharmacy, he is an assistant professor of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics in the department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences.

His area of research focuses on central nervous system (CNS), pharmacology and neuropharmacology. The aim of this research is to make advances in treating chronic pain which can be caused by lower back or nerve injury, diabetic neuropathy, and cancer pain, for example. He also studies the dynamics of drug addiction from opiates such as heroin and, sometimes, cocaine.

Some Honors College students may know Dr. Wang through the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program. He requires that students who want to work with him have both ample time for, and interest in, what is being studied.



Dr. Z. Jim Wang

At the College of Pharmacy Dr. Wang teaches thirteen team-taught courses, and he also teaches some elective courses by himself. The elective courses are available both to graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Wang earned his Bachelor's Degree from the Zhejiang Medical University, Hangzhou & Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica and Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, China. He then continued to earn his Master's Degree from the University of the Pacific in California, and he earned his Ph.D. at the University of California at San Francisco.

He did postdoctoral work with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, where his fellowship research area was molecular genetics and functional genomics.

To learn more about Dr. Wang and his work, visit his website:

<http://www.uic.edu/labs/wanglab/>

Dr. Z. Jim Wang studies the dynamics of drug addiction from opiates such as heroin and, sometimes, cocaine.

(Continued from previous page)

Duties of the board include purchasing music for the ensemble and planning future performances. Applications will be available for anyone interested in joining the executive board later in the Spring semester.

If you are interested in information about becoming a member, any upcoming performances, or have any other questions pertaining to the HSCE, please contact Jessica Sheng at jsheng2@uic.edu.



Honors College String Ensemble

MANJI CONVEYS IMPORTANCE OF ASKING QUESTIONS OUT LOUD

EUGENE LIEBENSON

Despite the snowstorm that blitzed Chicago on Tuesday, February 13, Irshad Manji, also known as the “Maverick Muslim,” received a warm reception in the conference room of SSB. Manji began her speech by saying, in Arabic: “In the name of Allah, the compassionating, the compassionate.” She went on to say, “And compassion is exactly what my opponents say I will need on the Day of Judgment.” She delivered a powerful presentation that was poised, informative, and witty.

Manji is the best selling author of [The Trouble with Islam Today: a Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith](#). She is a South Asian refugee of Ida Amin's Uganda. Manji's family immigrated to Vancouver, Canada in 1972 where, as a child, she received two strikingly different educations. On weekdays she attended public school, and on weekends she attended Islamic madressa, or religious school. In the madressa, Manji was first exposed to two Islamic dogmas that caused the self-identified lesbian feminist Muslim to seek reform.

The first dogma is that, according to Islamic law, women can not lead prayer. Upon learning this fact, Manji thought of her mother, a woman who had managed to

obtain an education on a cleaning lady's salary while raising three children. “This is certainly leadership quality,” exclaimed Manji.

The second group that Manji discovered was in the cross-hairs of her Imam's rhetoric, the Jews. “The Jews are treacherous, they worship mullah [money], not Allah,” she recalls being told. She was taught that Jews are preoccupied with business and attaining wealth. Manji began to ask questions out loud from a very young age. She explained to the audience that when she asked why women were not allowed to lead prayers, and argued that there was no proof of a Jewish conspiracy against Islam, she was “given an ultimatum: believe or get out.”

Manji refused to abandon Islam. Instead, she has immersed herself in the religion. She has begun a movement to reclaim Islam from the hands of the most extreme elements – those that engage in terrorism, such as Al-Qaeda and other so-called Jihadists. Manji receives e-mails and messages that vary in their content from young Muslims who have fallen deeply in love with non-Muslims, and wish to marry, to marriage proposals, to messages of thanks. She has also received death threats and pleads to stop calling herself a Muslim. “I suppose this is progress, since at one time apostasy was punishable by death in Islam.” Manji refuses to cast off her religion. She espouses liberal interpretation of the Q'uran and calls on Muslims to look inward: “Stop falling back on stale

slogans like ‘Islam means peace. Please believe us. We have nothing to do with the Muslims that kill innocent people; please believe us.’”

Manji maintains that the trouble with Islam is more widespread than most Muslims would like to admit, and it lies in its dogma. “You'd think we were Catholic,” she joked. Manji explained that the Q'uran has many verses regarding the same subjects, many of which seem contradictory. It was the job of the theologians to practice Itjihad, a word that Manji admits may have a foreboding sound to the ears of non-Arabic or non-Muslims, as it resembles the frequently used term Jihad. Itjihad means to struggle in order to interpret Islamic holy text. Manji has called for a democratized personal Itjihad where each person decides for themselves what is right. Manji seeks to utilize passages that praise diversity and tolerance to promote acceptance of queers, religious minorities, and interfaith marriage.

Manji admits that she could be wrong about everything, but she asks her detractors, “What makes you so sure that you're right?” According to Manji, much of the Muslim community remains silent as terrorists and brutal regimes continue to kill, torture, and deny freedom to more Muslims world-wide than any non-Muslim element. These actions are justified with Quranic scripture.

Manji's lecture was sponsored by the OGLBTC (Office of Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns, Human Rights Campaign, ICRC/Hillel Israel Initiative and others.

“I suppose this is progress, since at one time apostasy was punishable by death in Islam.”

BETH POWERS WINS CAPE AWARD

LIAT SHETRET

Each year, four UIC Academic Professional employees (APs) are selected for the prestigious Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award (CAPE). An Academic Professional is someone with whom most of us come in daily or weekly contact. When one interacts with a UIC staff member, other than a professor or instructor, one is probably enjoying the personal attention of an AP. AP's are committed to students education, are inspiring role models, outstanding individuals and are devoted to the success of students and colleagues at UIC—no wonder they deserve a cape. Alluding to superhero status is as close a descriptor I could have come up with to honor Ms. Beth Powers, Director of the Office of Special Scholarships (OSSP) at UIC and one of the four distinguished 2006 CAPE winners.

Honors College students frequently visit the OSSP and learn more about scholarship opportunities, their dreams, aspirations, fears, and partner up with Powers and her exceptional staff for the challenging journey towards personal realization. Just like any expedition, applying for scholarships, succeeding and failing, becomes a much more enjoyable journey when accompanied by an outstanding travel cohort. Beth was nominated for the CAPE Award by our the Honors College Dean, Janet Madia, a 2004 CAPE Award winner herself. Along with her colleague's nomination, Beth received overwhelming student support for her accomplishments. An elegant reception for this years CAPE winners was held at the Student Center East and featured a warm collegiate tribute to the four distinguished recipients. Each winner of the CAPE Award receives a \$1,000 permanent salary increase, a certificate, and a pin, and a one-time \$2,000 cash award.

I met with Beth for an early morning cup of tea, to find out more about her personal advising philosophy, her thoughts on winning the

CAPE Award, and her accomplishments at UIC.

Beth joined the University in 2000 and compares her current position to that of an advisor or coach. Indeed, Beth's honesty with students, incredible listening skills, superb and detailed knowledge of scholarship intricacies and match-making capabilities between students and scholarships, makes her the best yenta in town. For those of us who haven't watched the Fiddler on the Roof, a yenta is a match-maker. She has an acutely perceptive ability to pair students with scholarship applications that are relevant to their goals, meaningful to their work, and if all works according to plan, supportive of the pocket.

Beth suggests that faculty members and academic professionals are complementary professions. Faculty members do not necessarily have the time for the scheduling, recruiting, mentoring and advising students need to have a truly satisfying experience at UIC. AP's invaluable contribution keeps the University running, helps foster community and provides students with personalized attention on matters other than pure academics. Continuing with the superhero theme, think Batman and Robin, X-Men unite to bring change, and all the powers combined for Captain Planet to save the world. Such is the relationship between the roles of faculty members and academic professionals.

Winning the CAPE award is a great honor for Beth and truly touching, mostly because she knows how outstanding and professional her colleagues are. The fact that the selection committee is made up of her peers on campus suggests she has a great deal of support and respect from her co-workers. Without a doubt, one of the most distinct capabilities of CAPE Award winners is the ability to establish excellent working relationships with numerous people across university units, departments and fields. Beth's ability to think



Director Powers with Dean Madia

creatively may perhaps be attributed to her voracious reading of all kinds of media, books, newspapers; her inquisitive nature and fantastic synthesizing skills.

Although Beth now feels the tremendous impact of her work on campus and continues to feel responsible towards every student's success on the UIC campus, she maintains that awards and honors should not be used to validate or negate one's self worth. She said that "a scholarship is a tool that helps students get where they want to go." It is actually quite important that UIC students know that they can compete for the local and national scholarships as our environment here at UIC exposes students to great research, fantastic faculty, job and scholarship opportunities, and above all an education for life. Indeed, UIC has become a secure launching pad for academic, personal, and scholarship success. For which scholarship or program are you planning on applying?

On your way to visit Beth at the Office of Special Scholarships on the 25th floor of University Hall, please remember to look for the names of your own mentors on the CAPE plaque on the first floor of the building. If you can't find the name of your esteemed exemplar, please take the time to show them your appreciation by nominating them for the 2007 CAPE Award. For more information on nominating Academic Professionals for a CAPE Award please visit: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/apac/cape.htm>.

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 Jennifer Kosco at jkosco@uic.edu if you are interested.

Ampersand Board

Caitlin Cohn, Editor
Jennifer Kosco, Advisor

Contributors:

- Tanya Basu
- Matthew Beard
- Nirja Bhagat
- Sara Brodzinsky
- Annette Brown
- Yolanda Delgado
- Joel Ebert
- Jacqueline Hartford
- Eugene Liebenson
- Erin Olson
- Karen Oram
- Liat Shetret
- Megan Turner



Registration for summer and fall is fast approaching! All Honors College freshmen are required to meet with an Honors College advisor before registering for summer and fall classes. Advising appointments can be made by stopping by or calling the Honors College front desk: 312-413-2260.

Additionally, if you have any holds (financial aid, immunization, etc.) on your student account, you will need to clear them with the appropriate department before you are allowed to register.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK - PHILADELPHIA YOLANDA DELGADO

Having knowledge about the existence of an issue is one thing. Doing something to help solve the issue or learn about it first-hand is something very different. The main purpose of Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is to provide participating students with the opportunity to volunteer and contribute their help to different social and environmental issues.

One of the ASB trips for fall 2006 winter break was a volunteer site in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My fellow ASB volunteers were: Angela Asprec, Katie Stef, Anand Sandesara, Nilay Shah, Angelica Alonso, Jason Ortez, and Rommel Calderwood. We left the UIC campus the day after finals (12/16) and headed to Philadelphia and returned one week later. It was only a week, but the experiences were invaluable.

We volunteered for an organization called MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance). MANNA is an organization whose objective is to provide nutritional meals to individuals who have serious illnesses such as cancer and HIV/AIDS. After our arrival to MANNA's

kitchen facility, we helped prepare meals which were later delivered by volunteers on different shifts. One of the learning experiences from the trip was about the importance of teamwork. MANNA provides more than 40,000 meals every month to HIV/AIDS and cancer patients at no cost. The number of meals expected to be prepared every day would not be complete without the input of a group of volunteers working together. It was incredible to witness the willingness, commitment and dedication of all the people who served as volunteers for MANNA. Every meal from breakfast to a hot entrée was carefully prepared to meet the nutritional needs of HIV/AIDS and cancer patients.

After the meals were prepared and ready to go, we had the opportunity to personally deliver a number of the meals. This part of the volunteering was both interesting and fun. Although we got lost on our way to a few deliveries, the experience was like no other. We were fortunate enough to witness the effect that our volunteer contributions had on those we were meant to help. Every person we delivered



Some volunteers of MANNA serving those in need.

the meals to received us at their door with a grateful greeting.

Even though we were part of the trip to help others, it was the other volunteers and the patients we delivered the meals to, who helped us understand the importance and the difference that volunteering can make. ASB also offers students the chance to have fun and form new friendships. For this particular trip, not everyone knew each other. Yet, we all came together for a common purpose and made our ASB trip an unforgettable one!

To find out more about ASB, visit their website: <http://www.asbuic.org>