

The Ampersand &

UIC Honors College *October 2005*

Organic Philosophy, Global Politics by *Zina Alkafaji*

In a small, dimly-lit office with four walls of bookshelves filled from side to side and top to bottom serving as a backdrop, Andrew Cousins sat at a desk with hundreds of maps stacked neatly, one on top of another. His dress was simple and comfortable, yet seemingly informal for a university professor. I had asked to meet with him with the intention of getting a basic idea of his educational background, classes that he teaches, and fundamental beliefs. After leaving his office three hours later, I am not sorry to say that this is only a fraction

of what I came out with, and had instead experienced an intensely deep and philosophical discussion. It is of my knowledge, and based upon the my relatively limited interactions with him, Andrew Cousins is not the type of man that is interested in small talk, superficialities, behaving in a politically correct, fake, and polite manner in order to



sustain the socially-accepted and “formal” relationship that most in the western culture feel should exist between two individuals upon just meeting.

Professor Cousins, or “Drew” as he prefers to be called, related to me that he sees his own education as being split into the domains of formal and informal. His formal educational background includes studying on four different continents in the countries of England, Venezuela, the Palestinian territory of the West Bank, and the United States. He has been teaching for twenty years, some of which were at different universities in the states. His formal education started in the field of anthropology, but feels it is now coming to an end since in the spring he will be leaving academia to live as a

(cont'd. on page 2)

Cousins (cont'd. from page 1)

map-seller in India and other countries outside of the west, and has ended with his study of philosophy. Consequently, some of the classes that he is currently teaching are philosophically-related such as his seminar on Marx. Drew also expressed his interest in experimenting with different methods of teaching by applying the readings to the structure and organization of the class itself. Informally, his education consisted of

working as a professional in the field of medical anthropology in a variety of countries, including Venezuela.

Drew initially became interested in the field of anthropology as a child who was fascinated with the natural world and would collect various objects and animals from the wild. At the age of fifteen, he began working in archeology. Growing up as a free spirit who roamed and living almost as a Bedouin outside the desert, Cousins was able to explore and travel as he pleased.

This is only a brief look at the life and belief system of Andrew Cousins, of which include organic lifestyle, philosophy, religion, science, geology, ethnography, culture, language as his interests. As he puts it "I know a little bit about everything".

Come and find out more about this captivating character hidden in the depths of the anthropology department in BSB on Wednesday, October 19th at 4:30 pm in the Honors College Lounge. Professor Cousins will speak about his work and his future plans, and will be happy to answer any questions.

**4 1/2 Months till
the Ball!**

Student in the Spotlight: *Mosmi Surati*

by *Jessica Huang*

With a doctor father, and a mother working in a fertility lab, Mosmi Surati was exposed to the medical sciences at an early age. It is natural that now, a senior majoring in biological sciences and psychology, and minoring in Spanish, she is already eager to begin medical school. Yet as excited as she



Mosmi Surati

is to leave, Surati is devoted to making the most out of her last undergraduate year; most certainly, she is keeping busy. As Editor-in-Chief of *Red Shoes Review*, and President of the Society of Future Physicians, she

maintains the fine balance between science and art—and makes it look easy.

If you've ever heard of *Red Shoes Review*, the Honors College literary publication revitalized for the first time last year since its dissipation in the 1970's, you can credit Surati for helping bringing it back. Until her freshman Honors core professor praised her writing, and suggested that UIC could use more literary presence, she had not considered going in that direction. Executive Associate Dean Janet Madia, who is now the faculty advisor for *Red Shoes*, mentioned the Review, and inquired if Surati would like to start it up again. The publication's inaugural year was welcomed by students and faculty alike, with various submissions of artwork, poetry, and prose. "We don't want to limit what we put in there; even rap lyrics, that'd be amazing. We're even trying to have an open mic night, to incorporate things which you can't put in print. We want to encourage creative expression," Surati says,

(cont'd. on next page)

but they don't know anything about their chosen field....We give them an idea of how to get into medical school, and what to do when they get there." Under the supervision of faculty advisor Assistant Dean Stacie Williams, the Society's various events have offered members the opportunity to hear doctors talk about their lives, explore the different fields of medicine, go on medical school tours, and learn more about the application process. With last semester's membership ballot totaling over a hundred students, Surati has a huge responsibility. But her own interest in medicine, undoubtedly, makes SFP's events just as interesting to her as they are to the students who apply for membership.

On top of obtaining her medical degree, Surati plans to work towards a Masters in Public Health, and would love to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I want to do more than just be a clinician. When I took a psychology class last semester on African-American behavioral patterns, I learned so much about health disparities. Our level of health in this country is so high, but it's not equal among all groups of the population. I had a chance to speak with my professor's husband, who is the director of The Institute on Race, Research, and Public Health [Applied Research Center, Chicago field], and he really encouraged me to go in that direction." She displays her honest willingness to actively touch those in need: "When I see a patient in a clinic, it's almost already too late. If I can reach people ahead of time, in an outreach program, or something, then I can potentially prevent them from being in a clinic."

Those who are familiar with Surati are quick to speak well of her, especially of her reliability and ability to lead. "Mosmi is wonderfully organized, very on top of events, communications, and getting students involved," says Dean Williams. "It's been a joy to have her as the President [of SFP.]" Dean

Madia adds that Surati "is one of the most responsible, mature, and organized students I think I've ever met. She's incredibly talented in a number of different areas; she almost single-handedly is responsible for bringing back the *Red Shoes Review*, and managed to organize a whole group of students to produce a very polished and professional publication. I'm extremely impressed with her, and know that she's going to go on to do really important things in her life."

When asked which person—whether deceased, alive, fictional, or real—she would like to meet, Leonardo da Vinci was her ready answer. "The man was brilliant. He was a true Renaissance man—he dabbled in science, he dabbled in art, he dabbled in philosophy. He was able to master all sorts of disciplines, and I really respect that he wasn't singly dimensional." Not so narrowly preoccupied herself, Surati's plans for the near future include participating in a volunteer abroad experience, and practicing her dancing, especially traditional Indian dance, and ballet!

Surati credits her parents, professors, teachers in high school, and anyone who has ever influenced her to be everyday heroes in her life. "I try to emulate them. I'd just like to take the best qualities from each of them," she explains, "and bring them together to be the best that I can be."

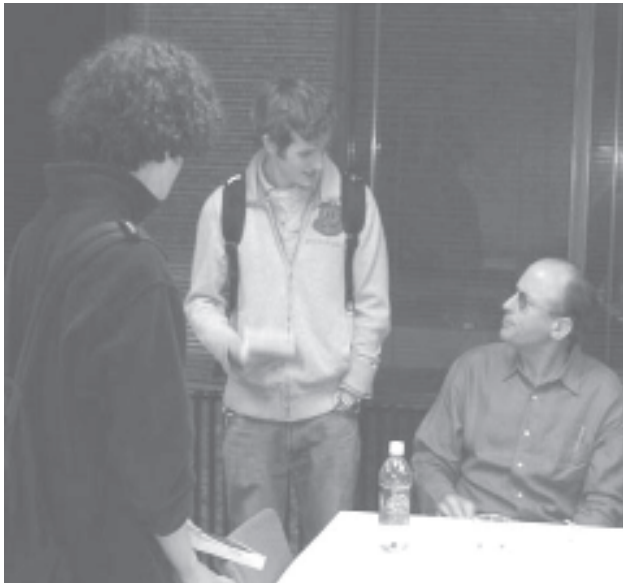
When she is not studying, or running her organizations, Surati enjoys hanging out with her friends, going shopping downtown, indulging in cultural events and museums, and playing tennis. But don't ask her who her favorite player is, as she is not a big fan of watching tennis. "I really don't like watching tennis at all...I hate watching! I'll say Venus Williams just to make people happy, but I can't watch it! I'd rather play."

Extremely appropriate words, indeed, for this take-action girl.

Surati (cont'd. on page 19)

Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder recently visited UIC. He spoke to students, faculty, and staff about his book "Mountains Beyond Mountains," which was selected as required reading for this year's incoming freshmen class. Mountains Beyond Mountains is Kidder's book about Dr. Paul Farmer, the co-founder of Partners in Health, a non profit help organization which serves to help patients in Haiti, and other impoverished areas of the world.

Honors College freshmen **Jeff Ording** attended Mr. Kidder's talk on Wed., Sept. 28th, as well as joining him at the Honors College-sponsored luncheon on Thursday, September 29th. Here is Jeff's impression of Mr. Kidder's talk.



Danny Ortiz and Jeff Ording speak with Tracy Kidder, author of "Mountains Beyond Mountains" at the Honors College luncheon on Thursday, September 29th

Behind Mountains Beyond Mountains

by Jeff Ording

Many things take you by surprise in life. These include events like discovering the truth about Santa Claus, "the other gender is not all about cooties" epiphany, and the stunning realization that love sometimes hurts. While I am sure Mr. Kidder borrowed from these life-changing events, they had nothing to do with his Wednesday night (9/28) speech.

Mr. Kidder's physical appearance is what you would expect of a middle-aged Harvard graduate English major. He is tall, balding, and wears a sagely look behind his glasses and sports jacket. Like most Harvard alums, his intellect defies convention. He radiates intelligence and conveyed a calm, observant tone throughout his presentation, which defied my expectations.

After a flattering introduction by UIC Housing Director Tony Martin, Mr. Kidder took to the podium and started a rather informal speech, beginning not by sharing his side of the story, but by essentially recapping the life of Dr. Paul Farmer. He explained about Dr. Farmer's unusual upbringing, his history, his accomplishments, his projects, and his mission, while placing sharp emphasis on Haitian history. The synopsis was seemingly unnecessary until he explained how he, like us, had to read a book the summer before his freshman year and had opted to pursue other interests. For the sake of others, those of us who had read his book sat and listened and found interest in the little tidbits of experiences he added that were not in the book. The two highlights of his speech, however, were his slides and his question and answer session at the end.

(cont'd. on next page)

When the laptop and projector's technical difficulties were finally fixed, Mr. Kidder showed pictures of patients in Haiti. The picture of one boy in particular was astounding. His tuberculosis-ridden body looked much like the pictures of starving South African children without the usual distended abdomens. The boy was so frail, so weak, so crippled that a nurse had to hold him up to get his picture taken. As atrocious and horrifying as the 'before' picture was, it wonderfully amplified the effect of the 'after' picture. Lo and behold, the same person was now healthy, fed, clothed, and above all smiling. The slides very much put all of Dr. Farmer's work into context.

Equally influential was Kidder's question and answer session. He shared how he sees people of different age groups react to a man of Farmer's initiative and devotion; he borrowed Farmer's verbal retort to a computer screen in response to an email one morning saying "I didn't say you should do it, idiot. I just said it has to be done." One particularly well informed student to my right posed questions as to the condition of Haiti. The ensuing exchange unveiled much of Mr. Kidder's previously uncovered motive for writing his book and for his speech.

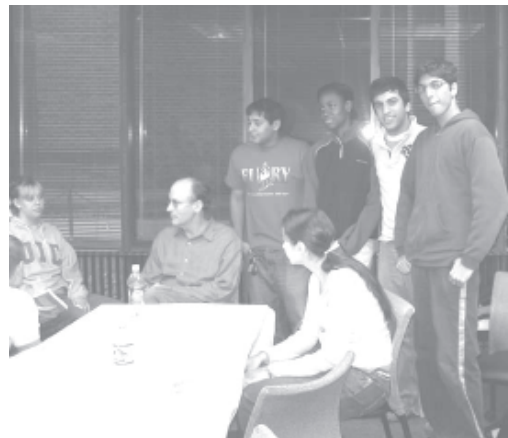
He had a lot to say about Haiti. His mind contained a plethora of knowledge about Haitians' history, regimes, dictators, voting turn-outs, and most importantly, the United States' involvement in their affairs. The well-informed woman to my side rightfully asked about what needs to be done to fix the problem. Mr. Kidder readily suggested it couldn't be done until we replace the current administration.

Suddenly the entire context of the book and the speech was revamped. Sure, the book was about success above all obstacles, humanity, and altruism – but was it not also a message about the terrible condition of the Haitian government and peoples? There had been times during his speech

where he had deliberately stopped himself from going off on tangents; he apologized before the question and answer session because he usually clears rooms when he "speaks like this" and thanked us for staying. Does he think that the entire message, the entire speech, the entire book was politically critical?

This raises some questions. What would the book have been like if it was read in expectation of a political spin? Has Kidder always felt this way or is this something Paul Farmer instilled in him? Was this book written by a journalist, as I had previously thought, or an activist? Perhaps the answer falls somewhere in the grey. Even so, their existence definitely shows how Mr. Kidder's speech certainly defied expectation; his message was certainly not his own side of the Dr. Paul Farmer story, nor was it a factual representation of a journalist. No, it was instead, that of a passionate advocate of Haitian rights and a staunch idealist. He is far from the cookie-cutter, run of the mill author that I expected.

Visit the Honors College web page at:
<http://www.hc.uic.edu> - to see more photos
from the Tracy Kidder luncheon.



Honors College students with Tracy Kidder after lunch

HCAB Hurricane Relief Efforts

by *Monica Shroff*, HCAB Community Service Chair

The American Red Cross estimates that over 2 billion dollars will be required for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. In response to this drastic need, the Honors College Advisory Board has dedicated its efforts to aiding in the Hurricane Relief fund through monetary fundraising for the past few weeks. The members of HCAB began by making black ribbons with red hearts and selling them outside Burnham Hall and inside the Inner Circle for \$1.00 each. They then ordered and began selling red hurricane wristbands that read "Relieve. Recover. Rebuild" for \$2.00 each.

HCAB has paid for all raw materials out of its own funds, meaning that 100% of proceeds from these sales will go toward the relief effort. Thus far, more than \$410.00 has been raised, and HCAB is looking for an organization that will match its donation.

Please support this effort by purchasing a ribbon or wristband, still for sale by all HCAB members. Keep in mind that while donation response from the general public dies down more and more each day, the trauma and devastation of this natural disaster is still an everyday reality for the victims of the hurricane.



Everything You Wanted to Know About the New Gender and Women's Studies Major, But Didn't Know Who to Ask!

by *Alaine Kalder*

An Interview with Judith Kegan Gardiner, Director of GWS, and John D'Emilio, Director of GWS Graduate Studies

1. What's the importance of having a GWS major at a university?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: UIC was one of the first schools in the area to have a Women's Studies Program. By the end of the 1970s, an undergraduate minor had been established and the first director of the program had been hired. In the 1990s, the program secured its own faculty lines. By 2001 the program was renamed to the Gender and Women's Studies Program (GWS) to indicate that interest was not confined to women but to gender as a category of analysis and to such related fields as masculinity studies and gay, lesbian, and queer studies. There are now 12 faculty members with appointments in GWS. The Program also includes more than 50 courses in the permanent undergraduate curriculum, which are taught by GWS faculty and faculty from 16 other departments.

While the course offerings are rich and the GWS faculty highly regarded nationally, in other ways UIC was lagging behind other universities by not offering a major. Gender and Women's Studies majors are fast becoming a standard component of undergraduate liberal arts and sciences education in the United States. UIC will now be able to offer our students the advantages of a major in terms of expanding undergraduate study choices and matching institutional possibilities with students' intellectual and vocational interests.

John D'Emilio: Having a major gives the program more visibility and encourages some students to make it a focus of their undergraduate years and study the area in depth. Having a major says, in effect, "this is important, just like English is important, and history is important, and biology is important."

2. How long has the GWS major been in the works? What was the planning process like?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: Planning began in the 2001-02 school year when two faculty retreats were held to brainstorm ideas. Information was collected from programs around the country, especially from CIC schools in the Midwest. We consulted with Directors of programs at CIC schools that have GWS majors about what they thought worked well and what didn't. Then we had faculty subcommittees devising and revising course curricula, and we held focus groups of current minors to discuss ways to expand and improve the Program. We also surveyed our recent graduates for their views and submitted our undergraduate major proposal in 2004. The major will go into effect in fall 2006, but current students can begin now taking the courses that will lead to the major.

John D'Emilio: Planning got started in 2001 with a couple of faculty retreats in which we talked in free-form style about how a major might be structured, what kinds of emphases we wanted to have in the program, and the like. Then we formed various subgroups to look at the intro-level courses, the capstone course for the majors, and other issues like the need to teach theory at the undergraduate level. After that: well, it took a lot of time to craft the proposal in such a way that it seemed unassailable and would get all the approvals it would need as it moved up the organizational chart.

3. What kind of impact do you think the GWS major will have on students at UIC?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: UIC already has a vibrant community of undergraduates with interests in Gender and Women's Studies. Some are active in the student group, Feminists United, which you, Alaine, are heading this year. The major broadens students' opportunities to concentrate their energies and coursework in a field in which they have an interest.

John D'Emilio: Even though only a small percentage of UIC students will be GWS majors, its presence as an option for all students is a comment on its legitimacy.

4. What are the advantages in pursuing a GWS major or minor?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: The GWS major or minor permits students more focused and also deeper attention to areas of interest, new scholarship, and potentials for application in the community and in many professions. UIC has an exciting, highly visible faculty with specialties in many areas of women's and gender studies, including violence against women, welfare reform, international and U.S. women's health and sexualities, the history of women, women's labor and professions, gay and lesbian history, feminist theory, masculinity studies, Latina organizing, alternative sexualities in Africa and India, controversies about women's roles in Europe and the Middle East, women and religion, and much more. Students majoring or minoring in GWS will be able to benefit from a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to these varied areas of inquiry.

John D’Emilio: Unless an undergraduate is very focused on a specific career, the undergraduate years in a college of liberal arts and sciences are an opportunity to learn more about people, society, culture, economics, politics, and more. It is also an opportunity to develop skills in writing, research, analysis, argumentation, and reasoning that are broadly applicable in a wide variety of occupations and jobs. In a sense, a liberal arts and sciences education makes us a better person and a better citizen.

At the same time, these years are an opportunity to go deeper into particular areas of knowledge. A GWS major will, by the time you’ve graduated, give you a pretty good understanding of how gender and sexuality play out in society, how it shapes the ways we think and act, what our opportunities are, and what are strategies to have an impact on the world, to make a difference in our lives and those around us. A GWS major is one road toward the larger goal of leading a responsible, moral, public life.

5. What changes have you seen over time in the discipline of gender studies, both in your time as a student and as a professor?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: There was no field of gender studies when I was a student. In fact, I had no female professors or teaching assistants throughout my college career through the PhD, and women were not encouraged to think of university teaching as a feasible profession. As a new assistant professor with two small daughters when I began teaching at UIC, I joined the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union and helped found both the UIC childcare center and what is now the UIC GWS Program. Thus, I’ve watched the field from its beginning as it has grown from a sense of the

absence of useful information to a situation where socially pertinent information and insightful analysis are abundant. As the interdisciplinary area of Gender and Women’s Studies advances, it grows into new areas, like gender and science, ecofeminism, and queer theory, and refines its approaches and its connections within the university and to the outside community. The four tracks in our new major indicate some of the exciting areas in Gender and Women’s Studies today — Sexuality and Society; Feminism, Social Policy, and the State; Science, Health, and the Body, Culture and Representation.

John D’Emilio: The simplest was of answering this is to say that, when I was a student, gender studies was so underdeveloped and so new that it was possible to read ALL the important books that were published each year. Now, I can barely keep up with what’s published in my own particular area of research!

6. What are the careers open to students who choose GWS as a major?

Judith Kegan Gardiner: Everything. Expertise in understanding women and gender will be valuable in every career. Evidence from other schools suggests that graduates of Gender and Women’s Studies programs thrive in a wide range of occupations. As with many liberal arts degrees, a Gender and Women’s Studies major emphasizes essential skills of writing, research, analysis, and critical thinking that make it a useful and marketable form of training for many occupations. For example, Ohio State University reports that its GWS graduates secured employment in social services, criminal justice, publishing, teaching, educational administration, health services, and public policy advocacy. A survey of graduates from the program at Indiana

University found that 31% were employed in higher education; 18% in law or medicine; 27% in business, computer technology, or publishing; and 24% in government and the nonprofit sector. Among the potential careers for GWS students are teaching; service professions; and policy, government and organizational leadership.

John D'Emilio: Pretty much everything and anything. A GWS major can point you in the direction of publishing, social service and advocacy work, public policy, teaching, and administration in a broad range of institutions. It's a good major to have for many kinds of post-baccalaureate professional training: for instance, social work, teaching, law, journalism, public health. Depending on a student's particular interests, it might make sense to combine a GWS major with a second major or with a minor in other fields as well.

For more information about the GWS program, please consult their website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/wsweb/WSweb.html>

OSSP News

For more specific information, you may access the Goldwater website at www.act.org/goldwater. Candidates must be nominated by UIC and may not apply directly. The UIC Goldwater application deadline is November 11, 2005. The national application date is February 1, 2006.

UIC students interested in applying to any of these awards should contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs for more information about the application process.

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

Study Abroad Opportunitites Abound

by Magdalena Casper-Shipp

There is an amazing array of study abroad opportunities all across the globe. Over the course of the year, I will highlight a few of the more interesting ones, and perhaps inspire you to participate.

The Study Abroad Office is located in 502 UH, and they have information on all aspects of the study abroad experience in their office. Under the direction of Chris Deegan, the staff can assist you in selecting the right program for you, and help you with all of the details. Financial Aid covers study abroad, and there is an abundance of scholarship opportunities for study abroad programs, and many programs are only marginally more expensive than it would be to dorm at UIC.

This month's featured program is in Copenhagen. Run by the Denmark International Study Program, this is a great program for students who need to take science classes to keep up with their major. In addition to the more traditional liberal arts classes that most study abroad students take, they also offer programs in biology, pre-medicine, and applied medicine. All classes are taught in English and there is no foreign language requirement. To look into this program, visit their website: at <http://www.discopenhagen.org/>

Additionally, don't forget to visit the UIC Study Abroad Office website: http://www.uic.edu/depts/spec_prog/studyabroad/

Photo Album

New Student Reception

Sunday, August 21, 2005

Dean Kaufman introduces himself to an Honors College freshman and his family.



Provost Tanner chats with a student.



Chancellor Manning offers freshman (and parents) advice.

Photo Album

Photo Album



HCAB member Victor Sapozhnikov leads the Honors College freshmen to the picnic.

New Student Day

Friday, August 19, 2005

Want to see more pictures?

Please visit <http://www.hc.uic.edu/photos.htm>



HC freshman anxiously wait in line.

Honors College Consultants sign in new students.

Photo Album

**Hello from IES London:
Reflections on a Brilliant Trip**
by *Liat Shetret*

When you can't stop sprinkling words like "cheers" to mean good bye, "squidgy" to refer to a chocolate cream cake, and constantly think about the best way to avoid "Her Majesty's pleasure," otherwise known as going to prison, you know you have been affected by London. The decision to study abroad should not be the result of a rational decision making process, but rather a direct submission to one's own commitment for education. Great Cities London, a program offered by the Study Abroad Office on campus (UH 502 in case you were wondering!) is a fantastic way to spend your summer learning, growing, meeting new people, and exploring the wealth and breadth of Europe. Research, the arts, life-long friendships, and traveling are merely four components of a plethora of benefits I have enjoyed from this learning experience.

I have been eager to share my low-cost excursions with you and to encourage your engagement with the Study Abroad Office. As a matter of fact, stop reading now and go to University Hall. Post haste!

A mix of graduate and undergraduate students broken down to smaller groups made up our class. Four of us worked together to examine poverty as it affects Chicago and London. We identified four components that we thought directly affect poverty and perpetuate a cycle of despair for low-income families. The four components are: the general economic structure, as presented by Alex Gourse, challenges of education, as presented by Daniel Selan, housing, (which I discuss), and the availability of social safety nets as discussed by India Birdsong.

Regarding housing, I learned that although the Chicago Housing Authority and the Mayor of London propose plans for transformation and management of both cities' housing crisis, policy-making by the two have not been enough to create affordable housing for low-income families. Specifically, housing in London is extremely unaffordable because of the natural green belt surrounding the city which prevents urban expansion. Further, extreme population shifts due to immigration, and foreign investments in London drive up the housing market's prices. In Chicago I found that the housing crisis is a result of the gain in population versus the loss of units, and the constant renovations and redevelopment of buildings and spaces into condominiums. Additionally, rent rises faster than income. All of these factors contribute to the problem of unaffordable housing.

The research aspect of the program was rich and custom tailored to our interests. Local London experts on our chosen topics were invited to lecture on these issues to help us begin in-depth research of London's poverty as it stands today. The city's resources: libraries, people, organizations, think-tanks, the various neighbourhoods, and historical collections all helped us grasp the magnitude of the problem and current policy-making efforts underway.

Other than research opportunities, and field trips to Oxford and the changing rooms of Arsenal, the Great Cities London Program offers the opportunity to travel on weekends. I must admit that I may have taken advantage of this specific benefit a bit too much, and if there is such a thing as "over-travelling," I am guilty as charged. I travelled quite a bit before the program started, but mostly during weekends while in London. I managed to visit Dublin in Ireland, Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Paris in France and Modiin in Israel. My favourite bragging point is maintaining minimum costs.

I assure you it can be done! Using the internet as a constant research tool to secure the cheapest hostel rates, airfare/train fare, free entertainment, and cheap dining locations that offer student discounts, I was able to enjoy Europe without burning a hole through my pocket. Advice from the Study Abroad Office, IES staff, our advising professor, and my travelling book companion helped secure my finances even more.

London is a cultural mecca. As a general fan of the arts, I had the opportunity to see magnificent shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Woman in Black*. I also enjoyed browsing the colourful market-style stalls of Covent Garden that offered everything and anything for sale. The British Museum was displaying the Rosetta Stone, which offers Egyptian, Greek and Demotic scripts, along with a better understanding of ancient cultures. Other highlights in London included the National Gallery, Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guards, and the Tower of London. Amsterdam offered the Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum, and the Red Light District. In Paris, I took in The Louvre, Comedy Francais, the Eiffel Tower, and the Gardens of Versailles. St. James Brewery (home of Guinness) in Dublin was another place I had the pleasure of visiting.

Overall, my experiences in London and with the Study Abroad Office in partnership with IES London have been extremely positive. As a matter of fact, I think I may just want to take up French in Paris! If London is not “your cup of tea,” rest assured that the Study Abroad Office will assist in picking a program that stimulates your thoughts, appeals to your senses and invigorates action. As final reflections on a wonderfully rich program, I offer memories of the taste of fantastic Indian food, which is found in abundance in London, along with good life-long friendships.



Above: Louvre Museum (Paris, France); Below: Liat outside *The Phantom of the Opera*



A Return to the Classic Reality and Encouragement to Interact: Terry Evans' "Revealing Chicago"

by Yu Kizawa

In Chicago's Millennium Park, a young African American mother and her son stand in front of an aerial photograph of Chicago. She points at a distinct red building in the photograph, the CNA Plaza, looks into her child's face, turns around, and points at the actual building that shows its red head behind other high-rises. "See the red one over there? That's the one in this photo," she smiles at her son, almost triumphant in her identification of the photographed to the real.

In its days in the cradle, photography used to be a medium of truth, apart from any other art that involved manipulations of reality on the part of its creator. This supposed scientific accuracy was, in fact, a source of pride for photographers of the mid to late nineteenth century, as well as their defense of this new medium they worked with. It did not take long, however, for many photographers to start recognizing and claiming the artistry involved in photography, to elevate photography to the esteemed position enjoyed by most other forms of art. By the beginning of the twentieth century, photography acquired the status of art. Manipulation of the subjects themselves, exclusion and/or inclusion of certain details, and use of light and shade, among other techniques, are consciously used in photography to give the image a certain emotion, and conscious viewers in turn try to discern the photographer's enchanting spell.

Terry Evans' "Revealing Chicago," a collection of aerial portraits of Chicagoland, is now on exhibit in the Millennium Park until October 23rd. In a way, the photographs are a return to the very early conception of photography as a transparent recording tool of external reality. There are such unfamiliar sights as circular tanks of the water treatment center and steaming steel mills, but what's most gripping in the exhibit are the fresh, bird's-eye views of landscapes that are already familiar to us. Cityscapes with skyscrapers below (not above!) the eye, cookie-cutter houses and their cookie-cutter shadows of sprawling suburbia, dozens of South Shore Metra rails merging into a thick artery pumping commuters into the city, runways of Midway airport with toy-like airplanes on them—all these images invite us to recognize the familiar reality, and to indulge in that recognition. (Just like the young mother did in the beginning of the article.) The photograph once again has become a transparent medium that presents aspects of reality. And reality, then, has ceased to be the elusive post-modern reality, reclaiming its primordial status as solid existence independent of human mind. It is a reassurance; what one sees in a photograph has a definite correspondence to the fixed, dependable reality, which is to be found at the location specified in the plaque below each photograph. This return to the "dated" notion of relationship between reality and photography might seem fatally moldy to some. But in the actual context of the exhibit, it seems to be working in favor of the viewers.



The “Revealing Chicago” exhibit and its visitors, reflected on the “Cloud Gate” sculpture, taken by the writer

When I was at the exhibit, I witnessed animated conversations on the photographs themselves, along with conversations on the various locations photographed in Chicagoland. The classical representation of reality, the sense of authority viewers have on the topic of locales they are familiar with, and the open-air space of the park all seem to facilitate conversation. Because the photographs were about Chicagoland, which most of the viewers have intimate knowledge of; they feel entitled to speak about them. Unlike many other visual art subjects that, either by being esoteric or by being “highly esteemed,” discourage spectators from speaking about them, the familiarity with Evans’ subjects invite people to freely give voice to their reactions. Their

straightforward presentation also pushes the viewers’ backs: there’s nothing tricky about these photographs, it seems to say. Further encouragement for interaction comes from the open-air space used for the exhibit. Contrary to the hushed reverence in museums, the free, open atmosphere of the Millennium Park contributes to the lively conversation people have at the exhibit. It is indeed a delightful sight: random strangers intrigued to engage in conversation with each other, about their lives, which wouldn’t intersect despite geographical proximity, were it not for the “Revealing Chicago” exhibit. It functions not only as an interesting artistic statement, but also as a fun and interactive addition to the Chicago’s Millennium Park, which nurtures new relationships between our city and its residents.

“Revealing Chicago” runs through October 23 in Millennium Park, also online at: www.revealingchicago.org

Movie Reviews

Just Like Heaven

by Jyoti Shenai

This romantic comedy starring Mark Ruffalo and Reese Witherspoon shows us just how far love goes. When David (played by Mark) sublets an apartment he gets startled by Elizabeth (played by Reese) who insists that the apartment is hers. David begins to think that the whole issue is a great misunderstanding, yet soon realizes that Elizabeth is only a spirit. He then tries to help her “cross over” to the after-life, however Elizabeth insists that she is still alive. The two then impart on a journey to figure out what exactly happened to Elizabeth and her life. Upon their search, Elizabeth and David soon begin to fall in love. Unfortunately, they have a limited amount of time before they can begin their future together.

Overall, this movie was pretty decent. The comic aspect of Ben the bookkeeper (played by Jon Heder) provided a lightened addition to the cast. This movie is a typical chick flick and a great date movie that shows a different aspect of love. The cast does a great job; Reese and Mark prove to be excellent romantic co-stars. I would definitely recommend this movie to those of you who are romantic fanatics and enjoy a light hearted movie.

Corpse Bride

by Aaditi Dubale

Corpse Bride, rated PG, is a humorous and horror-filled stop motion animation film that opened in theaters on September 23. While this movie is targeted for children, there is enough mature humor

and wit to make the experience enjoyable for adults as well.

Victor (voiced by Johnny Depp, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) is a member of the nouveau riche who is arranged to be married to Victoria (voiced by Emily Watson, *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*), a daughter in a family who is old-money-gone-poor. While practicing his vows in a forest outside town, Victor jokingly puts the wedding ring on a finger-shaped stick in the ground—which turns out to be the finger of a dead girl named Emily (voiced by Helena Bonham Carter, *Big Fish*). He becomes caught between marrying Victoria and Emily, who returns as a zombie.

Trailers for *Corpse Bride* specifically mention director Tim Burton as having previously done another stop motion film, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. If you have seen the latter, you may be tempted to draw parallels between the two films. The similarities may irritate some die-hard *Nightmare* fans, but for me it helped make *Corpse Bride* all the more fun.

Some elements of the film are predictable; it is a kids' movie, after all. However, anyone can relate to the movie's overall themes of love, greed, and death.

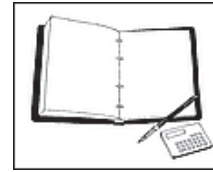
Corpse Bride is worth seeing in a movie theater, but perhaps not for full price.



Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*

10 Resources Every Honors College Student Should Know About.

by Magdalena Casper-Shipp



- ✓ **The Honors College Lounge and Pantry**
The Lounge, located in 120 Burnham Hall, is a room specially set aside for just that - lounging. It has comfy couches and workspaces for group projects or taking a break. The Pantry is 130 Burnham Hall, with a refrigerator, sink and microwave for student use - perfect for nuking last night's leftovers for a tasty lunch.
- ✓ **Honors College Tutoring**
You may think, 'hey, I'm in the Honors College for a reason so I don't need tutoring,' but everyone needs help sometimes - maybe calculus isn't your thing, or an English paper is proving more difficult than expected. A tutoring schedule is available both online and in the Honors College.
- ✓ **The Library**
This may seem kind of an obvious resource, but the library offers far more than dusty books - with a huge online database of scholarly journals accessible from home or school, with hard copies of hundreds of journals. They also have over 10,000 books on every topic imaginable, and as a member of the Honors College, they can be checked out for 16 weeks, instead of the traditional 4-week undergraduate loan period.
- ✓ **Swimming Pool/Weight Room in SCE (formerly the CCC)**
Everyone needs a break sometimes – and exercising your body when your brain is too tired to work is always a good idea.
- ✓ **Office Hours**
Again, another one of those “duh” things that people just do not utilize very much – get to know your professors, and class will be more interesting.
- ✓ **DARS report**
Live by this – it shows what classes you need to take, and what classes will fulfill requirements. Get a new one every semester.
- ✓ **Honors College Advising**
A great place to get your DARS report, the Honors College Advisors are easily accessible, and are understanding of what you want to do academically.
- ✓ **The Honors College Ball**
Not so much a resource as an event to look forward to – watch the Ampersand for updates!
- ✓ **Your Fellow Students**
UIC is full of people who know about an amazing variety of subjects – talk to your classmates, and find out fascinating things you never would have thought about.
- ✓ **The Neighborhood**
Situated on the border between several different areas, it's easy to go north to Greektown, or west to Little Italy. Not to mention, everything you can explore from the L – the Loop and Michigan Avenue, Chinatown or Lincoln Park – wherever you go, there is definitely going to be a reason to return!

News from Office of Special Scholarship Programs

Are you committed to public service? Interested in a career in science, math or engineering research? An immigrant with ambitious goals? If so, you should learn more about awards that offer support for your plans. Read up on the Truman, Merage and Goldwater awards then come in to talk to the staff in Special Scholarship Programs about applying.

Truman Scholarship

The Truman provides \$30,000 merit based scholarships to junior students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. Up to 80 scholarships are awarded each year. www.truman.gov

The candidate must be of a sophomore, junior or senior status (depending on the graduation date), have a desire to obtain an advanced degree, be committed to a career in public service, have a GPA of 3.57 or above, and be an U.S. citizen or national. Universities are limited to 4 nominees. Candidates must apply through UIC. The UIC deadline is November 4, 2005. The national deadline is February 6, 2006.

Merage Institute Fellows Program

The Merage Institute for the American Dream is dedicated to promoting opportunities for immigrants to achieve their American Dream. Selected students will be awarded \$10,000 stipends each year for two years. 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. They must also be US citizens or residents. If candidates are not yet citizens, they must indicate their intent on becoming a citizen in the scholarship application. Candidates will be selected based on demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, creativity, and consistent ethical behavior.

UIC may only nominate 3 applicants each year. Applications are available through the Office of Special Scholarships. The UIC application deadline is November 1, 2005. The national application deadline is December 16, 2005.

Goldwater Scholarship

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.

Regarding eligibility, candidates must be full time sophomores or juniors at the time of application, 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. Students pursuing the MD/PhD can be candidates. Due to the competitive nature of the UIC selection process, strong candidates should have at least 3 months of science/engineering research experience.

Surati (cont'd. from page 3)

cultural events and museums, and playing tennis. But don't ask her who her favorite player is, as she is not a big fan of watching tennis. "I really don't like watching tennis at all...I hate watching! I'll say Venus Williams just to make people happy, but I can't watch it! I'd rather play."

Extremely appropriate words, indeed, for this take-action girl.

Jessica Huang is the coordinator for Student in the Spotlight editorials. All Spotlitged students are members of UIC Honors College. If you have questions for previously featured students, or would like to nominate a student, please email Jessica at spotlighted@hotmail.com.

ASB Auction is 10/26!

Come one, come all. It's time once again for the 8th annual Alternative Spring Break auction. This year's event, "Around the World in 80 Days," will take place on Wednesday, October 26th. The silent auction gets underway at 3:00 p.m. and goes until 5:p.m. in Room 603, Student Center East. The exciting live auction, featuring our guest auctioneer, Jeff Lewis, begins at 5:30 p.m., just down the hall in Room 611. Come join the fun and place your bid on local restaurant gift certificates, exciting sports memorabilia, theatre tickets, and much, much more!

All money raised goes directly to help defray costs of ASB's trips over winter and spring breaks. If enough money is raised at the auction, ASB hopes to send students to the Gulf Coast area to assist in the hurricane relief efforts. We're counting on the continued strong support of the UIC community. See you on Oct. 26th!

For more information about ASB, and to find out about this winter's planned trips, visit our web site: <http://asb.pages.uic.edu>

Save the Date: March 4th, 2006

Faculty, fellow students, alumni and friends of all: mark your calendars for the 13th Annual Honors College Ball—it's on a roll! This much anticipated event will be held on **Saturday, March 4th, 2006** at the **Renaissance Chicago Hotel**.

The Renaissance Chicago Hotel is located across from the Chicago River at One West Wacker Drive. In the elegant ambiance of its grand ballroom with recently renovated walls, newly-laid carpets and sparkling chandeliers, you are sure to make unforgettable memories, enjoy a fine gourmet dinner, and dance the night out with your favorite music.

Keeping with tradition, a silent auction will take place, featuring items from local and national businesses available for bidding. The auction will be preceded by a cash bar cocktail hour. Valet parking for the evening will be \$20 and \$40 for overnight. Additional parking is available at Clark and Lake/State. Rooms at the Renaissance Hotel will be available at a special group rate of \$125.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Jyoti Shenai at jshena1@uic.edu or Hafsa Shahid at sshahi2@uic.edu



The crowded dance floor from last year's Ball!

Honors College Tutoring

Need a little extra help with calculus? Is the thought of that physics test next week making you lose sleep? Fear not! The Honors College tutors can help put your mind at ease. Stop by the Honors College tutoring center in Room 220 BH anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. You don't need an appointment, and it's free! Just check the schedule to see when you can get help in a particular subject. It's online on the Honors College web page: <http://www.hc.uic.edu> and there are hard copies in the literature rack in the H..C. lobby.

Willing and able Honors College students are there waiting to help you!



Honors College tutors Randall Stading and Jacqueline Cromwell are happy to help you with math, physics, chemistry, and psychology.

Check the schedule to see when those subjects are offered.

HCAB Ampersand Committee

Shetret, Liat, Committee Chair

Dubale, Aaditi

Guttikonda, Sameera

Jahedi, Saleh

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

Alkafaji, Zina

Buss, Joshua

Casper-Shipp, Magdalena

Dubale, Aaditi

Huang, Jessica

Kalder, Elaine

Liu, Judy

Ording, Jeff

Shahid, Hafsa

Shenai, Jyoti

Shetret, Liat

Shukla, Shripaad

Shroff, Monica

Turek, Chris

Yu, Kizawa

A special thank you to our advisor **Jennifer Kosco**. Thank you to **Joey Volpe**, and **James Criss** for their invaluable assistance

Questions? Comments? Interested in writing for The Ampersand? Please email Liat Shetret at:

Lshetr1@uic.edu or Jennifer Kosco at:

Jkosco@uic.edu



Just go to Room 220 (second floor) of Burnham Hall and look for the brand new Tutoring Center sign!