

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

September 2000

## Important Upcoming Dates

- Friday, Sept. 15 Honors College Tuition Waiver Applications Due
- Friday, Sept. 15 UIC Night - Comiskey Park (White Sox vs. Toronto)
- Tues., Sept. 19 Society of Future Physicians Induction
- Friday, Sept. 22 HCAB Social



Students relaxing at the recent Honors College Social, held in the Lounge on Friday, September 1st. See you at the next Social on September 22nd!

## A Message from the Dean

Here we are, once again, at the beginning of a school year. It is an exhilarating time to start or to complete the college experience. I am delighted to welcome you after a summer that I hope was both enjoyable and productive. I am especially pleased to greet the new members of the Honors College, freshmen and transfer students, who have decided to join us at UIC instead of another institution. Your choice was an excellent one because UIC provides outstanding curricula in numerous fields along with exceptional opportunities in research and study abroad programs. Moreover, the Honors College, a small unit within the large university, offers possibilities for success in an atmosphere comparable to that of a small liberal arts college. I invite you to take advantage of all these opportunities and to make your college experience rewarding and memorable.

As you may have noticed, the College is completing some new improvements. First, the washrooms have been renovated. With the approval of HCAB, whose members noticed last year with great dismay the deplorable conditions of the restrooms, and to minimize the cost of maintenance, I am reserving the use of these facilities for the staff, faculty and visitors. There are enough facilities for students on the second floor of Burnham and adjacent Adams and Taft Halls. Second, the lower level of Burnham Hall will soon be completed to house the tutoring program and other facilities designed to improve the students' time on campus. It will be necessary for everyone to abide by the College code of conduct to make those spaces most academically useful and congenial. Within this context, I must inform you that cellular phones are not permitted on the College's premises and that the right of every student to privacy must be safeguarded. Everyone is expected to respect the furniture and to leave the student lounge and pantry clean after use. We must all do our best to maintain the College in the neatest condition to facilitate our daily coexistence in Burnham Hall. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

I suggest that you consult regularly with the Honors College advisors. They are knowledgeable and eager to serve you as rapidly and congenially as possible. With great pleasure, I inform you of the arrival of Beth Powers, Director of Special Scholarship Programs. She will provide you with pertinent information about a variety of scholarships, including the Goldwater, Truman, Rhodes and Marshall, and will advise you in the process of applying for these prestigious awards. Applying for scholarships represents another way to improve one's skills; it is a wonderful educational and character-building exercise. I also invite you to get involved in HCAB. It is your association and it has an impact on the College.

As last year, I invite you to stop by my office during my open hours (Monday at 11:00, Tuesday at 2:00, Wednesday at 3:00 and Thursday at 10:00), or to make an appointment to see me at your convenience. Such meetings help me to know you better and to exchange with you ideas pertaining to your interests. I value these short discussions.

Have a successful semester.

*Lansiné Kaba, Dean*

## Meet Beth Powers, the New Director of the Office of Special Scholarship Programs

Are you interested in applying for a major scholarship? Make an appointment to meet with Beth Powers, the new director of the Office of Special Scholarship Programs. Beth's office is currently in 120 BH, but will relocate to the first floor of SEO sometime later this month.



*Beth Powers*

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs assists students in applying for nationally competitive scholarships, fellowships, and awards. The office provides information about these awards, advice on preparation for competition, and assistance in the application process. Services are open to all UIC students, and, in the near future, a web site will be available to aid students in their search for awards.

In addition to providing information and advice about a wide range of scholarships and fellowships, the director organizes committees that select, and in some cases, interview nominees for scholarships that request institutional endorsements such as the Rhodes Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, British Marshall Scholarship, Goldwater Scholarship, Udall Scholarship, and Fulbright program.

You can make an appointment to meet with Beth by calling the Honors College front desk at 413-2260, or you can reach her via email at: [bpowers@uic.edu](mailto:bpowers@uic.edu)

## Faculty, Food, and Fun, Fun, Fun!

*by Justin Sadhu*

Hey freshmen...and others! In case you missed the first Honors College Social of the year held on September 1, rest assured, many more lie in store! Honors College Socials are a great way to get to know the Honors College staff in a relaxed setting. After all, you may be spending up to four years here at UIC, and the Honors College staff can help to make your time here more productive. They can provide counseling or a friendly ear, and they are always eager to help. As Dean Kaba likes to say, the Honors College is your home at UIC and can serve as a liaison with the other parts of the university. Take advantage of the helpful service they provide.

Honors College Socials also feature guest appearances by various members of the university faculty. The faculty is very interested in meeting outstanding students, and that includes you...regardless of what your peers may think! Later on, those same faculty members can provide information regarding research opportunities or guidance in your particular major. They might even stimulate an interest in a subject until then foreign to you.

Finally, Honors College Socials can be a great way to meet new students or to spend time with friends. At the end of a busy week, they provide a good opportunity to relax. HCAB is always searching for new ways to make the events more entertaining. Last year, events included pumpkin-carving and other arts and crafts activities. In case nothing else appeals to you, there's always free food!! We hope to see you in the future, so come on out!

If you have any suggestions for food (within a certain budget) or activities, please contact **Julie Sadhu** at [jsadhu1@uic.edu](mailto:jsadhu1@uic.edu) or any other HCAB member.

## Check Out the World Wide Opportunities at the Study Abroad Office

Have you thought about studying abroad, but don't think you have the time or money? If so, you might be surprised at what the UIC Study Abroad Office has to offer!

The Study Abroad Office serves UIC undergraduates interested in living and learning overseas. The office works with students to help find programs that best meet their needs and interests. You can study everything from business at the London School of Economics to Health and Nutrition in the Dominican Republic. There are countless options and with over 60 programs in 30 countries, you can go for a summer, semester or academic year.

Programs aren't free, but financial aid and scholarships are available. Over 70% of students apply financial aid to study abroad. The Study Abroad Resource Center, located in 502 UH, also contains binders and books of the scholarships available. The Resource Center is open from 8:30-4:30 daily and there is almost always a peer advisor on hand to help you out.

And while you'll likely have to pay a program fee for study abroad, its value is priceless. Outside of the self-discovery and personal growth you'll experience, time abroad will make you an asset in whatever career you pursue later. Your application will be more competitive whether you're applying to medical school or for your first professional job.

Options are available in over thirty countries, from Kenya and Korea to Spain and Mexico. Deadlines for most spring '00 programs is October 1; for fall '01 and summer '01, March 1.

Interested students can stop by Study Abroad at 502 UH, call (312) 413-7662 or visit Study Abroad's Web site at: <http://studyabroad.pages.uic.edu>

*Read about Honors College students' recent study abroad experiences in Argentina, London, and Thailand in this issue!*

# Way Down South Argentina Way

by Soumiya Prakasham

“Hola, bienvenidos.” In a sleepy daze I was whisked off the plane and brought into the Buenos Aires airport. I raised my right hand to greet people with shakes, but instead two kisses were planted firmly on my cheeks. From the inside, the facilities seemed North American. Soon I would learn the sometimes frustrating, but intriguing subtle differences of this foreign country.

“Where is my second suitcase?” Tears sprang to my eyes as my first occurrence of bad luck crept up on me. I remained calm for I knew my clothes would be returned within a few days. After all, I was in a foreign country; I did not wish for my missing luggage to symbolize an ominous forecast for the rest of the trip. Sure enough, my personals arrived to my temporary home as the next wrecking ball struck: I came down with the flu!

After a week of being in the southern hemisphere, I ached for my mother’s care, my room, and my friends. Fortunately, my study abroad experience only escalated in a positive fashion after hitting rock bottom. I then started taking full advantage of all my following days, rendering my trip as the most unforgettable vacation.

The weekdays were a bit tedious, as I had to wake up at 7:00 every morning to take the train to school. The University of Buenos Aires is prestigious by name, but one cannot discern this by the appearance of the building. Graffiti covered the walls and trash blew through the halls. It was difficult to concentrate for cold drafts seeped between cracks in the windows. Fortunately, the program teachers possessed great teaching skill and were able to keep the class entertained. We learned Spanish mainly through oral practice and listening comprehension. Humdrum grammatical exercises were avoided. The relaxed manner in which the classes were taught invited students to actively participate and expand their Spanish-speaking ability. More or less, the teachers understood that the most rewarding aspect of a study abroad program is to experience a different culture and not sit in a classroom or do homework.

The people of Argentina are known for their beautiful Spanish accent and handsome features. Strolling through the streets among the European architecture became my favorite pastime. Innumerable cafes stood on every corner where one could delight in the country’s rich cuisine. One must surely try the empanadas and *tortas*. The coffee and deserts are exquisite. The use of *dulce de leche*, a caramel-type spread, is prominent throughout most sweets. Meat-eaters will be in heaven for beef is Argentina’s pride and joy.

Truly the city that never sleeps, Buenos Aires begins its nightlife around midnight. After an exceptionally late dinner, groups chat at a posh bar at one in the morning. At 2:30, the dance clubs light up and come alive! Made-up ladies and eager gentlemen bustle in to mingle and party all night. American girls must be careful to not get offended by the straightforward nature of Argentina’s men. When the sun rises, people enjoy a small breakfast, and then go home to their beds. They wake in the late afternoon only to start the cycle again.

This lifestyle was thrilling for six weeks, but at times I longed for the comfort of Chicago. It is the little things we miss: peanut butter, an old blanket, or the smell of the city. The best part about traveling far away is the freedom from the petty annoyances that plague us in everyday life. From thousands of miles away, mundane problems do not appear bothersome anymore.

Celebrating my birthday in two countries, backpacking through the rainforest, or having a conversation in Spanish with a native seems like the best part of a trip. However, in all honesty, the bonds and relationships created are irreplaceable. The night before I left Argentina I wrote in my diary, “I just don’t want to go back and deal with my normal life. It’s not specifically Buenos Aires I’ll miss, but the feeling of independence I achieved from living there.”

Go to Buenos Aires, learn Spanish, try every type of *alfajor* cookie at the local *kiosco*, shop through the glamorous malls, and be careful when attending a soccer game. Do all these things - just as I would like to when I return there some day.

# In Surgery All Day & Loving It!

by Alice Kim

I spent every day in the operating room for eight to over twelve hours a day for two straight months and I loved it! No, I wasn’t a patient on the operating table. I was a student in the DeBakey Summer Surgery Program, offered by the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. I shadowed a cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Noon, at Methodist Hospital and scrubbed in with him for all his cases. I was able to observe all kinds of surgeries ranging from heart, kidney, and lung transplants to thrombectomies, coronary bypasses, etc.

On average, I saw three surgeries a day. It is such an exciting feeling to scrub in and feel part of the surgical team. One day, I didn’t realize I had been standing for eight hours straight for a single case. It is an incredible powerful feeling to hold the heart while it is beating, to touch an aneurysm, to actually see peristalsis of the intestine, to hold an amputated leg, etc. I found it a privilege to observe so much as a college student and to be able to stand right at the table during the surgeries with my surgeon to help hold instruments, suction the blood, and cut the sutures.

The residents were cool enough to teach me how to knot. I used to practice knotting on lounge chairs, and it came in very handy because a couple times, I was able to knot and also staple patients during the surgeries. Towards the end of the program I even got to suture a patient which took FOREVER for me since I was so nitpicky. Aside from the surgeries, the residents took me to the as radiology and pathology departments, as well as on their rounds to check up on patients.

It was a very emotional and unforgettable experience to witness fright on an elderly patient’s face and in her voice as she was getting prepped for a mastectomy. I saw how scared she was, lying on the bed in the pre-op room and it gave me an insight into how patients must feel when coming into a hospital. But more than that, by seeing how scared she was, I really wanted to comfort her and sit with her and hold her hand. I felt so helpless, and I couldn’t say that everything was going to be okay because I didn’t know if everything WAS going to be okay. And it surprised me how easily attached I can become to patients.

(cont’d. on page 5)

September 2000

## Honors College Alum Hits the Campaign Trail



Honors College alum **Amy Hoak** (Class of 1999, English major, former *Red Shoes Revived* president/co-founder) and recent graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, has been selected as a

Pew Fellow.

As the recipient of a prestigious Pew Fellowship, Hoak will report on the political concerns of 18-24 year olds. She will be based in Washington, D.C. and will report on events and issues leading up to the November election.

Hoak says, "I'm pretty pumped up about the thought of getting out on the campaign trail as things are heating up; being in the capital for the elections will also be a blast. It's a great time to be doing this. A friend that did this fellowship in the spring interviewed George W. on his plane and George P. later on. People have talked with Nader, McCain... even Al Franken."

In conjunction with MTV's Rock the Vote and the Pew Charitable Trusts, (<http://www.pewtrusts.com/>), Hoak will hit the campaign trail this month, reporting on her findings and encouraging young people to vote. Look for Hoak's stories on the "YVote 2000" website at: <http://www.yvote2000.com/>

Additionally, Hoak's coverage will be distributed to the Medill News Service's subscribers, which include 20 daily newspapers and nine television stations, as well as 120 television stations and 500 college newspapers.



## Our Month in London

by Alice Kim & Matt Wang

**Matt Wang** and **Alice Kim** are currently juniors studying biology. This summer, they both partook in the Great Cities London program, a one-month study abroad program that compared contemporary urban issues between Chicago and London. Following is their account of their month in London in their own words.

### ***What motivated you to apply to the Great Cities London program?***

(A): I've never traveled to Europe before and I wanted to experience a different culture.

(M): I wanted the opportunity to travel to Europe and become involved in a program that was interested in exposing a country's culture and way of living. Of course it was very nice that everybody spoke English

### ***What was the specific academic component of the program?***

Students were divided into five groups, based on their interest of study. Each group compiled a comparative research paper from their respective studies and presented their findings to the class at the end of the program. Sources of information included library research, interviews, and surveys. There was no question that there's a lot of work involved. Individual contribution and good group interaction was important to producing a good presentation.

### ***What issue did you study in London?***

(A): My group studied the effectiveness of methadone clinics in terms of health, safety and crime, and economics between the two cities. Methadone is used to treat heroin addiction. We found that Chicago offers better quality treatment to a small number of people and London provides lesser quality treatment to a greater number of people.

(M): I studied the differing perspectives in England and America on the death penalty. What's interesting is that England has outlawed the death penalty while our death penalty system is currently being revamped because of all the wrong convictions that have occurred in our judicial system. We interviewed prison guards and took surveys of college students at UIC and at the University of London and found that students in London were more against the death penalty than students in Chicago even though our judicial system has been responsible for many wrongful convictions.

### ***Where did you live in London?***

We were all housed in a flat in Maida Vale, just northwest of the center of London. It was very similar to the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago.

### ***What was your typical day like?***

The days varied. There was no set schedule. In the mornings, we all met at IES (the Institute for the International Education of Students) and congregated in the conference room where keynote speakers from all over London came to lecture about the various topics that we were studying. These speakers represented a wide range of organizations that included an MP (member of Parliament), directors of volunteer programs, professors from universities, etc. The lectures, however, were a small part of our educational experience. Through IES, we also visited a methadone clinic, a maximum-security prison, a mayor's office, and a hospital where we interviewed many officials that ran the facilities. One day, we went to Cambridge University.

### ***What did you do in your free time?***

On weekends, we traveled to nearby cities. Students visited Edinburgh, Paris, and Amsterdam during the program. We also took trips to Stonehenge, Roman Baths, Tower of London, etc. On some nights, we went clubbing. London has the most amazing clubs. Students also went shopping for trendy clothes and cheap Doc Martens. Other nights, we just chilled at a nearby pub and sampled a variety of European beer.

### ***What experiences have you gained from studying abroad in London?***

(A): I had a lot of fun working together with other UIC students who were studying different fields. I also enjoyed hanging out with them and noticing little perks about people.

(M): I learned a lot about the types of people that live in London. I was also exposed to many different perspectives on how to deal with urban issues such as health care or crime, which are completely different than our own system. Most importantly, I became very close with a diverse group of students whom I might have never met otherwise.

# Memories of Thailand

by Salil Ginde

Any study abroad trip will change a person, but Thailand changed me for the better and left with many unforgettable memories.

The monks and my university classes there taught me a great deal about Buddhism, enough to completely change the way I see the world. Ideas of suffering, impermanence, the path to enlightenment, and transcendence of the self were new and exciting to me as I could see first-hand the monks meditating and cultivating the path.

The people of Thailand made the strongest impression upon me. They were so beautiful in the sense that they were always nice, always smiling with friendly, welcoming looks on their faces. Never in a rush, they always strolled and were calm and relaxed, a clear reflection of their Buddhist culture. Especially after speaking with monks, it was hard to believe people with so little anger and hatred exist in today's world.

The beaches at *Koh Sumui*, *Koh Sumet*, and *Hua Hin* were paradise with perfect weather. I actually saw small schools of fish swimming around my legs in the crystal clear water.

*Chiang Mai* and *Bangkok* are very modern cities; crowded and active with shopping bazaars where you can buy everything from a fake Rolex to silk scarves.

I also spent time trekking up and down hills in the rain forest of northern Thailand. Surrounded by a dense matrix of trees, soaked from pouring rain and half-eaten by mosquitoes, I finally reached the top of the mountain and beheld a site I can never forget. The trees opened up enough to form a window where I was able to look down upon what looked like an ocean of green waves. Finally, the sun peeked out as the rain poured harder, and large circular rainbows colored the skies. This site exemplified all the beauty I saw in Thailand.

# Comedy Sportz

by Kurt Davis

Are you just lying around in your room with nothing to do? Have the first weeks of school been monotonous with no sign of relief? Have I got a remedy for you! Get yourself to **Comedy Sportz**, a local improvisation comedy club. One of the best parts is that it is only a twenty-minute bus ride away from UIC.

Comedy Sportz is a new comedy club that started a year ago. Its actors are witty, professional comedians whose expertise is improvisation, a style of comedy that consists of spur-of-the-moment wisecracks depending on suggestions from the audience. A referee officiates between two teams who challenge each other in different categories of improv, such as singing, mime, and gibberish. Additionally, one lucky person from the audience is selected to join the performers on stage. It's non-stop laughs from the pre-performance rendition of the Star Spangled Banner until the trophy ceremony at the end of the evening.

Comedy Sportz is at 2851 North Halsted, just north of Diversey. You can hop on the #8 Halsted bus right in front of CCC; stay on until the stop just past Diversey. Thursday nights feature 'Blind Date,' an hour-long show based on personal ads; cost is \$10. On weekends, the tickets are \$15. There are two shows on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 and 10:30 p.m.; Sunday's festivities start at 6. Additionally, 45-minute improv sets at midnight on Saturday nights are only \$5.

For reservations or information, call Comedy Sportz at 773-549-8080. You can also visit their web site at: <http://www.comedysportzchicago.com>

# London (cont'd. from page 4)

## What was the most memorable moment of your trip?

(A): One night we went to a club called the Ministry of Sound. It was the most I ever sweated from dancing!

(M): I have to say the best times were those quiet tired nights when we would get back late from lectures and just hang out at the local pub. It's amazing how many great memories I have of just relaxing and laughing over a crazy day in London with a pint.

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# Surgery

(cont'd. from page 3)

I also encountered a little boy undergoing heart surgery. They put a line into the left atrium of his heart during the surgery to monitor the blood flow. After monitoring, when the line was being taken out in the recovery room, the child was crying and the nurses had to hold his arms and legs from flailing. He asked for his mom and seeing the boy cry really broke my heart and I just wanted to take away any pain that he was feeling. It made me wonder how I would've handled the same situations and what kind of doctor I want to be toward my patients.

I would highly recommend the program to any student interested in pursuing a career in medicine. There is no better way to learn about the human body and the anatomy and physiology of organs than to see and feel the organs and learn how the human body functions as a whole. It also provided a great opportunity to interact with doctors, nurses, residents, and patients and ask them questions about the medical field.

The program provided an invaluable insight to the day and life of a surgeon and also the visit from a patient and doctor's perspective. From this program, I also learned the names of the surgical instruments, how to practice sterile techniques, and how to walk really fast around the entire hospital. It was more than I expected to experience in a hospital setting as a college student.

For more information, call Baylor's main Surgery Education office number at 713-798-6078. And, if you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [akim11@uic.edu](mailto:akim11@uic.edu)

## Honors Talk

by Joyce Chen & Danny Choi

*The following is an excerpt from a recent conversation between two first year Honors College students:*

Joyce: Hey Danny, what's up? What are you doing? Your homework, I bet!

Danny: Yes umm...my homework. Say, is that a new key chain you have?

Where'd you get it?

J: Oh, so you've noticed! Yeah, I got it from the Honors College New Student Day scavenger hunt. My group won!! Hey, where were you for that?

D: Oh, yeah, I was gonna check that out, but they planned it at the same time as the Sea Dog trip. But it didn't matter anyway because I slept in that morning.

J: That's too bad. You missed out on a lot of good stuff, and I'm not just talking about my key chain. First there was breakfast, then in our groups we did icebreakers like writing our names in the air with our butts, playing Chubby Bunny with donut holes and this really cool skit.

D: Gee sounds like I missed a whole lot, woo hoo, Chubby Bunny eh?

J: No! There was a lot more, we got to meet our honors core teachers and had lunch and got to hear Dean Kaba speak.

D: Hey now wait a minute, I was up in time for lunch, and I met my teacher too. That meeting our professors thingy was a good idea, I now feel a lot more comfortable going into my honors core class.

J: Yeah, but that wasn't it, I also met other teachers too. I got to discuss philosophy with Professor Neil Grossman. But right after lunch we were done, and before I knew it, everyone was leaving!

D: Uh huh, it did seem a little short.

J: Oh, that's cause you slept through half of it.

D: Yeah, but still didn't you think it could have lasted longer?

J: It did seem kind of short but I can't think of anything else they could have done.

D: That's true. So it was good, but I think it was a little too early, and I wished it wouldn't have conflicted with the other new student days activities... like the Sea Dog.

J: Yeah, maybe they should take all the Honors College kids out on some sort of trip, that way you wouldn't feel so bad sacrificing the Sea Dog...well, if you would have woken up early enough!

D: Oh, ha ha! I had fun while I was there. In any case, you have interrupted my... homework long enough. I'll see you later.

J: Ok, see you at the next Honors College social!

**You can see photos from this year's  
New Student Day on the Honors College web site at:  
<http://www.hc.uic.edu>**

## Canada the Beautiful

by Alisha Bhatia

This summer, I visited Canada with my family. Our first stop was Calgary. We visited the Olympic Park, site of the 1988 games, and had the opportunity to ride in a bobsled that was actually used in the Olympics.

South of Calgary was the site of several abandoned coalmines. Here we were taken 1.5 km below the ground into a cold and dark coalmine to experience the life of a miner. At one point, when our overhead lamps were extinguished, it was so dark that I could not even sense the movement of my hand waving in front of my face. The conditions were so damp and cold that the muggy weather at the surface was a welcome relief after our hour-long tour.

After leaving Calgary, we continued north into the Canadian Rockies. These majestic mountains were the most beautiful that I have ever seen. At every turn of the road, there seemed to be another lake or hot spring. After driving through the town of Banff, we arrived at the most scenic spot in the Rockies, Lake Louise. The ice-cold water was crystal clear so that we could almost see to the bottom. The snow-covered mountains that surrounded the lake sparkled like a thousand diamonds.

North of Lake Louise are the Colombian Ice fields, where we walked on mountain glaciers in sub-zero temperatures. The weather was one of the most remarkable features of the Canadian Rockies. Whereas one day it was hot enough to go to the beach, the next day we found ourselves stranded in a blizzard.

Overall, the beauty of the mountains was unsurpassed by any place that I have ever visited before. This beauty made my trip a wonderful journey.

# A Freshman's Worst Nightmare

by Rishi Garg & Dimple Modi

"Bzzz! Bzzz!" It's seven a.m., and the dreaded alarm clock makes its presence known. Rolling over groggily, the freshman yawns as he realizes he is not sleeping in his own bed, but a squeaky tiny twin sized one that he could easily roll off. (Good thing he isn't on the top bunk!) Grasping the concept that college is not a dream, he rushes to beat the crowd in the common bathroom so he won't be late for his 8 a.m. class. To avoid tardiness, of course, he sought out the location of all his classes the day before (though he would never admit it to his roommates). With no time to lose now, the freshman gathers all his energy to get dressed and exit the Commons West residence hall. With no time for the most important meal of the day, he dashes to the Science Engineering Laboratory Building, only to encounter a deserted campus...who would be nuts enough to take an 8 a.m. class, let alone chemistry that early? Anxious to meet his new classmates and hoping to get a reasonably intelligent lab partner, the freshman arrives 15 minutes early and sighs a deep breath of relief. But little does he know that the hardest part is yet to come.

Lab begins promptly at 8. Being optimistic, the freshman pulls out his notebook to take notes from his TA's opening speech. To his dismay, the words coming out of the TA's mouth do not even remotely resemble English! What a great start to the next 4 years of his academic career! As soon as class is dismissed, the freshman rushes down the stairs to run to Stevenson Hall, the farthest point on campus from SEL. Hoping that his honors English class will offer more promise; he arrives to see no empty seats in the room. The teacher explains that the class has been overbooked to accommodate the increased number of freshmen in the Honors College this year. Luckily, he eyes a seat in the corner of the room next to a friendly face. This class ends before he knows it, and once again, he must rush to the other end of campus for his chemistry lecture at SES, a building some may not even consider part of campus. He arrives 5 minutes late to a sea of 400 students, and finds one empty seat only in the last row of what appears to be an auditorium. Pulling out a notebook, he adjusts his glasses to focus in on the teacher, making a mental note to bring binoculars next time.

The teacher dismisses class 15 minutes early because she is tired of talking, so the freshman heads out, not knowing where to go for lunch. He remembers eating lunch at the Circle Center Café during orientation, so he heads there, hoping to run into a familiar face. Luckily, he spots a girl he met on his floor during the dorm activities; he heads over and smiles, glad to not be eating lunch all alone. Heading back to his room, he tries to think of his next activity for the day. Because he is not used to all the freedom and free time, ideas are hard to come upon. He checks his email, calls some old high school friends, and chats with his roommate. He soon finds out that his day was not that bad; at least he was enrolled in all the classes he attended, unlike his roommate, who wasn't on the attendance sheet in two of his classes! Pretty soon, it's time to head to the weekly floor meeting, conducted by his RA. They discuss student issues and electing floor representatives. He looks around the room and smiles to himself and thinks that all these students were going through the same thing he was. Together, they could make it through. All in all, his first day was not as bad as he made it out to be.

"Bzzz! Bzzz!" 7:15!! Oh no!! I must have been dreaming! I'm going to be late my first day of classes!! Oh well...it can't be that bad....

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## The Senior Wish List

by Vidhya Viswanathan

After what seems like a hundred classes, a thousand credit hours, and who knows how many hours spent doing extra-curricular activities; I have finally reached the last year of my University of Illinois at Chicago career. Well, maybe it hasn't really been that long, merely two years, but college can sometimes feel like an eternity, especially when sitting in hour-long classes. But with the feelings of relief and happiness that come with only having one year left, I also have some feelings of anxiety. I'm slightly panic-stricken. Why, one might ask. It's not as if I won't be receiving my bachelor's degree or that there isn't enough time to finish my major. I probably will receive a minor as well. No, the panic doesn't arise from anything rooted in academia. It comes from the fact that I feel as if I am running out of time. It is the fact that after two years at UIC, I don't know if I've truly made an impact or if I've truly enjoyed the college experience. For these reasons, I've written a wish list for myself that I hope to complete by the end of my final year. I hope all senior students will use this as somewhat of a guide for their final year as well. Here's the list:

1. Learn at least one thing in all my classes, however minute.
2. Make sure at least one person that I've met will remember my name for the rest of his or her life (not counting my friends.)
3. Enjoy the little things: going on top of BSB, sipping coffee from Café Descartes, walking to Lake Michigan, rollerblading through the SES parking lot, etc.
4. Finish whatever I've started: research project, program, a thesis paper, etc.
5. Take advantage of the city, the Lake, Sears Tower, the Museums, especially on free days.
6. Don't leave any bridges burned.
7. Spend more time with close friends than with friendly acquaintances.
8. Participate in something because I want to, not because I have to.
9. Leave a **mark** on UIC, my own personal signature.
10. Have **absolutely no regrets** at the end of my time here.

I write this list now so that I will still have time to do whatever was left incomplete in my previous years here. I hope that I will succeed in reaching all my goals, especially #10!

## Camp Courage, 2000

by Anisha Shetty

**courage**

“This session is definitely going to be one of the toughest. We have 17 girls in our cabin, 6

of which need to be cathed every four hours. Only one of the girls can do it by herself; she just needs to be reminded, and two of the six girls are bellybutton cath. If you’ve never done it before, just watch someone and you’ll get it. It’s not too difficult. Two of the girls are total cares, but don’t worry; they’re very small and very light, easy transfers. Let’s see...one of our girls has an iliostomy bag that needs to be emptied every night. Another girl is fairly heavy. She’s 14 and is over 300 pounds. Last year, it took four counselors to transfer her, but this year, it says she’s going to bring in her own hoier lift to get in and out of bed from her wheelchair. If think the rest of the girls are fairly independent. Some just need help with dressing themselves and with transfers to the bathroom and showering. There are only two new campers this summer and from what I remember, they’re all sweet girls...” This was my introduction to life as a counselor at Camp Courage.

Camp Courage is a wonderful facility designed for children and adults with disabilities. Located on a lake in Minnesota, the camp offers all of the activities that a “normal” camp does, including tubing on the lake and horseback riding. Campers can also take part in game shows, square dances, and adult casino nights. Campers attend weeklong sessions and live in cabins with up to 15 other campers and 5 counselors. The weeks spent at Camp Courage are a time for the campers to have fun and fit in; doing things they might not otherwise have a chance to try.

Being a counselor there was such a rewarding experience, but it was truly one of the toughest jobs I’ve ever had, both emotionally and physically. Transferring campers in and out of wheelchairs many times a day really developed muscles. Seeing what some of the younger ones go through every day of their life made me really appreciate little things that I sometimes take for granted.

Strong friendships were forged with both the campers and other counselors. Each day started early and ended late. Sharing the day’s stories with other counselors out on the dock under a star-filled sky each evening made each day perfect. Little things like watching a girl go swimming for the first time or waking up at 2 a.m. to crying 7 year old boys during their first camp thunderstorm and playing flashlight tag with them until they fell asleep were experiences I’ll never forget. The summer flew by and now I’m left with some incredible memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

If you are interested in being a counselor at Camp Courage next summer, visit their web site at: <http://kdlldlink.net/~ccourage/> There is lots of information here, including a downloadable application. I can guarantee that it will be one of the toughest jobs you ever tackle, but you will love it!

## Applications for ASB Winter Trips Available September 20th

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is once again in full swing preparation stages for this years winter trips and has been since school let out last spring. ASB has been working diligently all summer to find the best sites possible to obtain our vision of providing beneficial volunteering opportunities for students all across the nation.



Now in our third year at UIC, Alternative Spring Break is expanding at a rapid pace. In our first year ASB organized five trips sending 70 UIC students all over the nation. Last year, ASB became established by sending over 120 UIC students on eight trips all across the country. This year we have no intention of slowing down. ASB is planning to reach more people across America. With thirteen trips and over 200 UIC student volunteers, we plan on making an immense impact on every corner of the continental United States. We are all very excited about enabling people to share in this unique volunteering experience.

Alternative Spring Break is a volunteer organization that delves into social and environmental issues by immersing college students in diverse social and cultural environments all around the country. It is a way in which college students can give back, and make very positive impacts in peoples’ lives. The organization also provides great opportunities for UIC students to travel to new places, as well as meet other really great UIC students.

Alternative Spring Break is committed to educating and developing life long lust for community activism and a volunteering spirit. We feel that we can change the world and our perception of the world one location, one trip, and one student at a time. For more information about Alternative Spring Break feel free to stop by their office in Room 514 CCC anytime. Applications for winter trips will be available September 20th. For more information, visit the ASB web site at: [http://www2.uic.edu/stud\\_orgs/service/asb](http://www2.uic.edu/stud_orgs/service/asb)



ASB participants went to North Carolina in Spring 2000