

# THE AMPERSAND

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**Special points of interest:**

- Find out where to get tutoring help!
- Meet the new Director of Advancement for the Honors College.
- Discover the identity of our new permanent Honors College Dean. Hint: look to your right, and then at page six!

## A NOTE FROM DEAN BOTTOMS

Students, faculty, and friends – welcome to the new school year! And what a successful start: The Honors College welcomes one of the largest, most diverse incoming class ever – just over 300 new first year students. Provost Tanner, HCAB President Lisa Zhang, and Fellow of the Year Robert Gaensslen helped me welcome over 600 of them and their family members at a formal reception the day before the start of their college career.

The Honors College also welcomes a new staff member: Lisa Domkowski, our new Director of Advancement. Lisa comes to us with many years of alumni relations and fundraising experience, and we are glad to have her on the Honors College team. I am excited about launching more initiatives involving our committed, but untapped, alumni network. She will also work with potential corporate sponsors. Speaking of which, Lisa just brought me the great news that the Caterpillar Foundation has again donated \$6,000 to support the research of Honors College students in the natural sciences and engineering. Caterpillar has also given the college a generous gift that will allow us to host a major campus speaker series, which Lisa is hard at work planning. You'll hear more about that soon. To read more about Lisa, see page four.

I'm pleased to announce that the Honors College has awarded well over \$150,000 in scholarship money to our students thus far this academic year. Given the current economic difficulties many families face, we are delighted

to be able to help so many deserving students, supporting their commitment to higher education.

In other news, the lower level of Burnham Hall has seen improvements over the last several months. Room B-16 is now more

comfortable and user-friendly, with meeting space and computers for use by Honors College student organizations. Students, please stop downstairs and think about how you can use the space, and feel free to give us feedback as we plan renovations to the area in the future. You may have your ICard coded for room access; see someone at the Honors College front desk for help.

Also, the Honors College has begun a partnership with the UIC College Prep high school, located near campus. In the future, students will be hearing about opportunities to mentor high school students there.

Again, welcome to all new and returning students, and to the faculty of the Honors College. We're glad you're here!



**Dean Bette Bottoms**

## HCAB UPDATE: AND WE'RE OFF!

JOSEPH ESPARAZ

With the school year underway, the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) has hit the ground running... and has not slowed down. Planned with the help of the Honors Ambassadors, this year's first event was the New Students Day Picnic, an event targeted at all the new incoming Honors College students. This fun-filled afternoon was full of inspirational speeches, friendly icebreakers, a little competition, and most importantly –SUNSHINE! All the incoming honors students had a wonderful time, and they all left with full stomachs. See some photos from the day on page six.

As the midterm weeks approach, stress is soon to follow. Luckily for all of you Honors students, HCAB has many planned events on the way. Tickets to two Cubs games were made available to students and the popular Broadway play, Cats, is soon to arrive. If you missed out on any of these

*(Continued on page 6)*



# SCHOLARSHIP HAPPENINGS FROM OSSP

FAE RABIN

Twenty-five floors up in University Hall is the Office of Special Scholarship Programs. For any and all students looking for scholarships, the OSSP can provide both insight and resources tailored to a student's specific interests. Available on the Website ([www.uic.edu/depts/oaas/sp/osspmain](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaas/sp/osspmain)) is a thorough list of nationally competitive scholarships geared towards students from across the disciplines. In addition to the descriptions online, students can sign up for appointments with Beth Powers or Amanda Harrison in order to better understand what is expected in order to be a more competitive candidate for their chosen scholarships. Included in this one-on-one process is the opportunity to get the inside scoop on specific scholarships, have written materials reviewed with extensive feedback, as well as mock interviews for all off-campus scholarships.

Programs open for applications now include:

### The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship (deadline: October 5, 2009)

For students undertaking Master of Fine Arts and doctoral-level studies in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Fellows receive the award for up to the lesser of 48 months or the completion of their degree, in addition to a stipend depending on their financial status according to their FAFSA.

To apply visit: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html>

### The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program (deadline: October 6, 2009)

Applicable to recipients of the Federal Pell Grant, undergraduates seeking study abroad opportunities may apply for the Gilman award to fund study abroad world-wide. Scholarships are offered specifically for students who come from underrepresented demographics in education abroad. Open to all majors.

To apply visit: <http://www.iie.org/gilman>

### The U.S. State Department Internship (deadline: November 1, 2009)

For Summer 2010, undergraduate students may apply to intern at the U.S. State Department to work on Foreign Affairs issues either domestically or abroad.

To apply visit: [http://careers.state.gov/students/ug\\_students.html](http://careers.state.gov/students/ug_students.html)

**OSSP Scholarship Information Sessions** are held twice weekly on Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Fridays at 3 p.m. in the conference room on the twenty-fifth floor of University Hall (room 2550).

To sign up for a general scholarship information session visit: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaas/sp/infosessionschedule.htm>

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Last spring, the Chicago Tribune broke the news that the University of Illinois had a special category of in its admissions department for applicants who had people with clout sponsoring them. The Ampersand catches up with Honors College students to ask how they feel about this scandal.



I'm disappointed in the University of Illinois. The application process is designed to put us all on the same level. This scandal ruins the whole system. College should be about quality...favoritism ruins that process. Hopefully it doesn't happen again.

-Joshua Kannankeril, Junior Biology major



I think it's discouraging to think that clout and political leverage got individuals into any university rather than hard work. But I'm not surprised. Follow the money!

-Bryan Killian, Freshman Biology major



It is, from what I heard, unfair for people who have worked hard to get into a school when someone else comes right in because of status. It's selfish of the trustees [and admissions officials] to look out for their financial benefit versus the benefit of the students.

-Grace Allawirdi, Sophomore Neuroscience

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## SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON GREGORY PRATT

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, I boarded a plane, alone, for Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. A few days before my flight I finalized my room reservation at George Washington University's Foggy Bottom campus and postponed figuring out how to get there until after I arrived. You might think that's crazy, but I think it's romantic.

I took a shuttle bus to the Washington Metro and took the train toward GW. From there I walked a couple of blocks to the hall where rooms keys were being given out and got in line. About a minute later a young man walked up to me. He stood out for the same reason I stood out: he was wearing a suit and I was wearing a suit. Everyone else was wearing shorts and sandals.

I introduced myself and immediately noticed his deep southern drawl. His name is Nick, and he is a graduate student at Yale Divinity School. He was in town for an internship with a Christian organization. We talked a

little, exchanged a few details about ourselves, and then I asked him the most important question I can ask someone: "Hey, do you like baseball?" That's how I met my best



**Gregory Pratt makes friends in our nation's Capital**

friend in Washington.

I started my internship with the Senate Historical Office on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. I had zero negative experiences at the office – it was *that* good an experience. Most

internships, especially with political offices, involve menial work that is very important to the office but not very rewarding to the intern. Mine was nothing like that. I never once answered a telephone or brought anyone coffee, not because I was difficult but because no one asked me to. I was given five assignments to tackle by the end of July and told to accomplish them however I pleased. They were mostly writing assignments on subjects ranging from the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing to the history of Senate lapel pins. They were a lot of fun.

My bosses at the SHO were

a pleasure to be around, as well. The Senate Historical Office employs three historians who study the United States Senate. They are great scholars and no one on Earth knows more about the United States Senate than they do. I enjoyed picking their brains every day. But the coolest perk of my internship involved the Congressional Intern Lecture Series. Every summer, the Congress puts on a lecture series for its interns. Through this series, I heard over two dozen people speak and asked them questions, with figures ranging from Defense Secretary Robert Gates and to Attorney General Eric Holder to various representatives and senators. I made friends from all over the country at these lectures.

Weekends were a lot of fun, too. I took long walks on Saturdays that stretched from one end of the city to the other and sometimes from the top of Virginia to the bottom of Maryland. In my two months in Washington I saw all the monuments, went to all the museums, and did everything I could possibly do in town. I left Washington on August 1<sup>st</sup> and was sad to say goodbye.



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

## HONORS COLLEGE TUTORING IS HERE TO HELP!

Qualified Honors College students are available to help you in almost every subject. A great advantage of the Honors College tutoring program is that the student who is helping you with the topic did very well in the class, understands the material, and just might have had the same instructor!

Hard copies of the schedule are in the literature rack across the from the Honors College front desk. The online version is available at: <http://www.uic.edu/honors/learning/documents/finaltutoringschedule9909.pdf>

The Honors College Tutoring Program takes place Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Tutoring center is located on the second floor of Burnham Hall in Room 220 BH. You do not need an appointment; tutoring is free and available to every UIC student.

For questions on the program, contact the Honors College tutoring coordinator: Prashansa Sharma at [psharma4@uic.edu](mailto:psharma4@uic.edu)



# MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

## KRUPA PATEL

You might have noticed a new face walking around the Honors College this semester. Her name is Lisa Domkowski and she is the new Director of Advancement for the Honors College. While she primarily works with alumni and friends of alumni to secure funds for the Honors College, she also uses her skills to assist Honors College student organizations with their fundraising.

Domkowski might be new to UIC but she is no stranger to fundraising for a university. Her last job was at North Park University, here in Chicago, where she was a director in the development office for eight years. Her move to UIC has not been a difficult transition from an environmental standpoint as North Park is quite diverse, like UIC. Domkowski jokes that the only difference is the larger campus and even larger number of students that attend our university. Fortunately for her, her job description does not entail memorizing the names of the 20,000+ students that go here; it has more to do with ensuring that those 20,000+ unique students are well represented to potential donors and alumni who want to help continue UIC's tradition of academic excellence.

Through her job she comes into contact with many influential people, corporations, foundations, nonprofits and assorted people of influence whom she needs to convince that it is worth investing in UIC and its students. Therefore, she must have persuasion skills to



**Lisa Domkowski**

do her job. She also needs a personal connection to the students she serves to better tell their story, and what better way to obtain that experience than by having an office in the middle of the Honors College?

Domkowski constantly uses her extensive fundraising knowledge to connect with many influential people and present UIC's students in the best possible light. In addition to her development duties, she has been helping the Honors College Advisory Board raise money for their HCAB scholarship. She has also worked with UIC OneWorld magazine to raise money for their publication.

When asked about her experience here so far, Domkowski has nothing but kind words. She loves the energy of the students, learning the many acronyms here (a process we all suffered through as well), attending her meetings, and figuring out how to get around the university. Her goal for this semester is to be the best ambassador for the Honors College that she can be by bringing the compelling stories of the Honors College students to light. If there's one thing she could ask from not only the Honors College students but college students in general is that we "consider philanthropy, how we can get involved, and how it impacts you on a daily basis." Because if not for Lisa Domkowski and people like her, our university would not be what is it today.

# REMEMBRANCE OF

*On September 14, the Honors College community was deeply saddened to lose one of its students to a brain hemorrhage. Her name was Grace Yu. Grace was a bioengineering senior who intended to pursue admission to pharmacy school. Among many other stellar academic accomplishments, Grace conducted research with Professor Richard Gemeinhart in the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences. She also provided valuable service to the Honors College. For example, as an Honors Ambassador, Grace made the transition to college less stressful for many other students. In a letter recommending her for admission to the college, a former high school teacher noted that "some people are more aptly named than others..." Indeed. We are lucky to have shared in her life.*

*The Honors College would like to extend its sympathies to the family and friends of Grace. Below is a notice of Grace's death provided by her family.*

**Bette L. Bottoms, Dean**

Grace Yu, our beloved daughter and sister, passed away on September 14, due to a sudden hemorrhage in the brain. During her two and half days stay in the hospital, our family prayed relentlessly for her healing along with numerous friends and pastors. In the end, we realized it was God's time for her to leave us.

Grace was a Bioengineering senior at UIC, and an active participant of Asian American Intersarsity, a Christian fellowship on campus. Though shy and soft-spoken as a child, Grace matured into a young woman who was always very kind and generous with her heart. Grace was often seen with a big bright smile, the kind that shrinks her eyes to a squint.

Grace's life and heart burned with love for Jesus Christ. Since junior high, she participated in many missions trips to Taiwan and China. She hungered to see the kingdom of heaven become a reality here on earth. She wanted more of Jesus not only in her own life, but also in the lives around her. In particular, Grace had a deep desire to see the people of China come to know Jesus.

On the night she passed away, Grace donated six major organs, saving three lives in one night. Over six hundred people attended her memorial service held at her church. In addition, two hundred others watched a live streaming of her memorial online. We believe she is now rejoicing in heaven. My wife Julie and I, her sister Sunny, along with many others, will miss her dearly.



**Grace Yu**

## FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR. STEPHEN FANNING

### GREGORY PRATT

Professor Steven Fanning of the History Department is a nice man; a gentleman and a scholar, if you will. He has a good sense of humor, and not just by dry academic standards. To this list of attributes we might even add “tough,” in more ways than one. He is a man who wears sweater vests, and he works in the field of medieval history and has always “loved the period of the Middle Ages, even as a child.” He says: “I feel very much at home with it, oddly enough.”

Professor Fanning has written three books: “The Annals of Flodoard of Reims,” a translation of one of the most important sources for tenth-century history, which he co-edited with his graduate advisor and mentor, Bernard S. Bachrach; “Mystics of the Christian Tradition,” a book examining various Christian mystics including Jesus Christ; and “A Bishop and His World Before the Gregorian Reform, Hubert of Angers, 1006-1047,” a book about an important French bishop. He is currently working on “a project examining political concepts and political realities in the Roman Empire, from the mid-first century BC to the mid-fifth century AD.”

Professor Fanning is an excellent teacher, knowledgeable and clear in his lectures. He has a reputation for being a tough grader due to his high standards, which he attributes to his childhood. “I grew up in a series of small towns in Texas and Oklahoma whose schools were pretty bad. There is a saying that one teaches the way that they would like to be taught to, and I think that is true in this case.” He continues, “I came from a poor educational background and what I loved about college was being presented with high expectations and seeing if I could rise up to them. I liked having serious courses that expected a lot from me because I felt that that was the only way that I could learn and improve.”

Professor Fanning is the first and only professor to give me a nightmare. Last semester I took his course on Byzantine-Roman



**Dr. Stephen Fanning**

history. He would walk in just a little before class was set to begin, pin a map of the Byzantine Empire and its neighboring countries to the wall, call attendance, and lecture with much enthusiasm and an astonishing breadth of knowledge about Byzantium. When the time came to assign papers or go over topics for exams, Dr. Fanning was always clear that his standards were high and he expected us to rise to them. I do not mean to belittle the toughness of other professors I have had or dare my current professors to ratchet it up a notch, but Dr. Fanning is a consummate professional and that intimidated me. I wanted to pass his class with an A more than I've ever wanted to pass a class. I eventually had a nightmare where he and Emperor Diocletian were grading my exam and if it wasn't up to their standards, I would lose my soul. That just might have been my psyche over-reacting to the challenge.

In 1988, Dr. Fanning was paralyzed due to an illness that was never diagnosed. He was in London, England, at the time and had to spend six weeks in a hospital followed by several more weeks hospitalized in Chicago. He eventually learned to walk again, and says of the experience, “There is no way to summarize what it was like regaining the ability to move my arms and legs and then learning to walk again. It was extremely difficult and painful.” He was an associate professor here at UIC at the time.

Dr. Fanning has been a fellow in the Honors College for about thirteen years. Asked to give advice to Honors College students, he says: “Make more use of your Honors College fellows. Most of the time I feel like a form-signer, but I have especially enjoyed getting to know ‘my’ students better.”

Professor Fanning is a great example of a man taking advantage of his opportunities.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: MOCK TRIAL

### GREGORY PRATT

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 2009-2010 UIC Mock Trial team assembled for its first meeting of the year. After a quick introductory class session in the Behavior Sciences Building with supervising professor and coach Nicholas Gowen, Esq., the team walked to Giordano's for its traditional start-of-the-year pizza party.

This year's team has big goals and much to live up to. UIC Mock Trial has been nationally ranked for 14 consecutive years and hopes to make it fifteen this season.

The Mock Trial team competes through the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), which sponsors a regional tournament in February that determines whether or not teams advance to a “super regional” tournament. The teams that advance beyond that point make it to the National Championship Tournament in April, which will be held in Memphis. It is coached by three UIC graduates: Gowen, Victor Erbrin, Esq., and Robyn Haynes, Esq., and two UIC graduates who are currently in law school: Ryan

Nolte and Karim Basaria.

Its student-captains are Bob O'Malley and Amandeep Gill. The team has several Honors College students on it, including Fae Rabin, MJ Sweiss, Karolen Hasdoo, and this author.

The process of joining Mock Trial takes about a month, from the first information session to an interview with one of the team captains to an audition in front of the coaches and all invited students. For those who make it onto the team, the rigor of that process is a harbinger of things to come. A week and a half into the program, students on the Mock Trial had to take a quiz with fifty questions to determine how well they had read and taken in the material in this year's case.

This year's case involves the murder of a man whose death his business partners stood to benefit from. It is ambiguous enough to allow students to show how good an understanding of the law and legal process they have.

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from YOU!

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

Please contact  
Jennifer Kosco at  
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Gregory Pratt, Editor  
Karen Oram, Layout  
Jennifer Kosco, Advisor

### Contributors:

Joe Esperaz  
Krupa Patel  
Fae Rabin



## DEAN BOTTOMS NAMED PERMANENT HONORS COLLEGE DEAN AND VPUA

We are pleased to announce that, as of August 16, 2009, Professor Bette L. Bottoms became the permanent Dean of the Honors College and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs.

Since she was named to the interim position last November, Bottoms has already started working with the staff of the Honors College to increase the Honors College's development activities and study issues related to student diversity and curriculum.

As Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, she will provide academic leadership not only for the college, but also for the Office of Classroom Learning Environments, Study Abroad, Special Scholarship Programs and for UIC's five cultural centers – the African American Cultural Center, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Gender and Sexuality Center, Latino Cultural Center and the Office of Women's Affairs.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Bottoms earned her master's in cognitive psychology from the University of Denver and her doctorate in social psychology from SUNY-Buffalo.

A social psychologist who specializes in Psychology and Law, Dean Bottoms conducts research on child abuse, children's eyewitness

testimony and jurors' perceptions of child victims and offenders. She has published widely in journals and has co-edited five books, and she is a member of three journal editorial boards. She served as President of the American Psychological Association's Section on Child Maltreatment and its Division of Child and Family Policy and Practice.

Since joining the UIC faculty in 1992, Dean Bottoms has won eight teaching awards including the Silver Circle, Teaching Recognition Program Award, and Teaching Excellence Award, as well as the two major teaching awards in her field.

Dean Bottoms' administrative history includes serving as Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Psychology and Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She has served on numerous campus committees and the boards of outside community organizations.

"I'm delighted to have been appointed to this new position," she said. "It's very rewarding to work with a host of committed, creative administrators, staff, students, and faculty members who are excited about enhancing the excellence of undergraduate education at UIC."

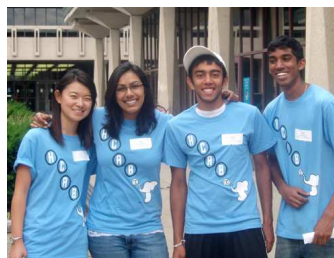
*(Continued from page 1)*

events and are feeling sad, just buy a few cookies at the upcoming bake sale or join students, fellows, and faculty members for a wonderful luncheon. Details will be announced soon.

And always remember—more and more events are coming your way! Don't forget to check your UIC email for details.



Freshmen Accounting major  
Leigh Cunningham & Biochem  
major Alexander Kim



HCAB members Lisa Zhang, Anu  
Bommakanti, Milan Patel & Joshua  
Kannankeril



Freshman Architecture  
major Roy Mwale waits in  
line



Professor Ward Weldon chats with  
junior Mechanical Engineering  
major Garrison Buss