

# THE AMPERSAND

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Jacob "Jay" Mueller</i>	2
<i>ASB on the Road</i>	3
<i>Egyptian Adventures</i>	4
<i>News from the OSSP</i>	5
<i>Spain Study Abroad</i>	6
<i>A Balinese Experience</i>	7

**Special points of interest:**

- Honors College Advisory Board Information
- Homework Hotline
- Ice Cream Social
- Alternative Spring Break Auction



## A NOTE FROM DEAN KAUFMAN

Welcome to the Fall 2007 semester. By now, everyone should be back into the full swing of the semester, with the first set of midterms just upon us.

This semester finds us with four new staff members, Prof. Laura Junker (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs), Jacob Mueller (Director of Operations), Paula Derks (Assistant to the Dean), and Almeda Jones (Assistant to the Dean). We are proud that both Paula and Almeda are

alums of the Honors College, reminding us of the outstanding value of our alumni and of course, of our new Alumni Association.

I would also like to remind everyone that this year we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UIC Honors College. While there will be several opportunities during the year to reminisce and smile with pride about our achievements past and yet to come, we do ask everyone to hold open the evening of Friday, April 18 for



**Dean Lon Kaufman**

our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration.

## STUKEL TOWERS OPENS FOR BUSINESS

EUGENE LIEBENSON

James Stukel Towers (JST) is in its first year of housing students. Its entire B tower is reserved solely for Honors College students, housing 120-150 students. JST is located on the southeast corner of Roosevelt and Halsted Street, in the area classified as the south campus dorms. This area includes Thomas Beckham Hall (TBH) and Marie Robinson Hall (MRH) as well.

"JST has made UIC more residential. Last year, 3,000 students lived on Campus. This year JST has brought in 740 more," says Jason McKeen, the Resident Director. Halsted Street has become a buzzing strip occupied by dorm resident students at all times of the day. The growing community of students residing on campus has transformed UIC, which has

long been considered the Chicago area commuter school. Ten years ago, only 500 students lived on campus; that number is quickly approaching 4,000 today.

McKeen says it has changed the area surrounding UIC. "Students living on campus bring energy, and youthfulness. Students don't just come to their classes and go home. They stay and talk about what they are learning.

Evidence of change can be seen by how many students attended the recent UIC soccer game."

When asked about the Honors College community in JST, McKeen responded, "Honors College students are really stepping up. The group is responsible for a lot of programming. They are birthday coordi-

nators, social coordinators, IT coordinators, photographers and they are involved in the JST student government."

Josh Bishay is an Honors College student who lives in JST. "The building is newer, so the facilities are nicer," says Bishay. He also enjoys that the dorm has four, five, and eight person suites. At TBH and other apartment style dorms Bishay says, "You could go through the whole semester and never meet your neighbors- this is much more social." Bishay is a second year anthropology major, and he is active on campus to raise awareness of genocides that take place around the world. "Dorm life gives students an opportunity to connect, you have a community here that you will never have again," says McKeen.

## SAVE THE DATE!

*Saturday, February  
23, 2008 is the date  
of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Honors College Ball.*

*This fun-filled  
evening will take  
place at the elegant  
Chicago City Centre  
Hotel.*

*Watch your UIC  
email for more  
information!*

## JAY MUELLER BECOMES HONORS COLLEGE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

JACQUELINE HARTFORD

The Honors College recently welcomed a new staff member: Director of Operations Jacob Mueller. Mueller's responsibilities include managing human resources, budget, and finance and building management for the Honors College. He also teaches a section of the weekly freshman seminar, Honors 101, which orients new students to the Honors College and the college experience in general.

The aspect of his job that Mueller finds most enjoyable is interacting directly with students. He explained that, "It's nice to be able to keep in touch with the students that way." Mueller is new to the Honors College community, but he is in his 13th year working at UIC. His previous experience was in the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, which is a student resource office on campus. Mueller's previous responsibilities were similar to those that he has in the Honors College, including working with stu-

dent affairs and student programming.

Mueller finished his bachelor's degree in English at UIC and was active



Jacob "Jay" Mueller

in the poetry-writing program. He currently is pursuing his Master's degree in English, but other interests determined his career path. "I like to look at things the way they are operating and make it better," he said. These skills are precisely what led him to be a part of the Honors College staff. Dean Lon Kaufman asked Mueller to

come to the Honors College after another staff member left. Human resources and budget duties were rearranged and the opportunity for a new position, Director of Operations, opened up.

Thus far, Mueller has enjoyed working with Honors College students and staff. The experienced staff has been helpful in informing him about how the things are run and also have sought his input in regards to changes. He said, "It is great to be a part of the Honors College team."

It is no coincidence that Mueller works at a university and not for some other type of organization. He stated, "My enjoyment in working with students is why I'm at a university." He is available as a resource for students who are in need of practical advice about the many difficult situations and decisions that college life can bring.

## HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD

BRIAN LIN

The Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) is the student-elected council of the Honors College. HCAB plans numerous events of both an academic and social nature for students throughout the year. So far, we have had huge successes with the New Stu-

dent Day Picnic, and the Honors College Freshmen Pizza Party. Upcoming events include a breakfast-themed bake sale on Wednesday, October 10. These and more events are open to all Honors College students.

Be sure to watch your UIC email for announcements of other activities coming up. Additionally, freshmen looking to join HCAB should keep alert, as information regarding the two Freshmen Representative positions will be released soon.

## ASB GOES ON THE ROAD AGAIN

### AMBER ORENSTEIN

Are you short on time? Would you like to volunteer but don't know where to start? Do you need a break from Chicago? If you answered yes to these questions, you should consider Alternative Spring Break (ASB). Since 1998, ASB has sent hundreds of UIC students to work with a wide variety of service organizations during both winter and spring breaks. In addition to these week-long trips, ASB also sponsors local volunteering in Chicago. While the name is a bit misleading, ASB's mission is quite clear: ASB seeks to educate students about prevalent social issues by immersing them in diverse environments across the country to engage in service-oriented learning. By taking students out of their comfort zones, placing them on service trips with people they might not have ordinarily met, in places they may never have visited, ASB hopes to give trip participants an extraordinary and inspiring experience.

For this winter break we have three amazing trips planned. Each addresses a very different issue that our country currently faces. Trips will leave the Saturday after finals and return to Chicago the following Saturday. We will address the need for affordable housing by working with Habitat for Humanity in West Palm Beach, Florida. Each year, Habitat for Humanity makes the dream of home ownership a reality for thousands of hard-working, low-income families.

If you want to learn more about the immigration debate and the current migrant worker program, you might want to work with La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE). It is an organization founded by the legendary human rights activist Caesar Chavez. Working with LUPE, ASB volunteers will deliver Christmas gifts, help with training in English and build homes for migrant worker families in need.

If you are interested in the environment, ASB is offering a

trip to New Orleans to work with The National Wildlife Federation. The saltwater that ravaged New Orleans during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita left the city a wasteland by killing thousands of acres of plant-life and spreading debris into small waterways. Students on this trip will help plant native species and clean waterways. ASB teams will take canoes through the bayous of Louisiana and help preserve the natural beauty of the environment.

Some people might say, "What can one person, or even a few people do to change anything? These problems are too big for college students to fix". However, if college students do nothing, who will? If you are interested in taking a stand and helping your fellow Americans, come to the ASB General Information Meeting on November 5th at 4pm, in the Illinois Room at Student Center East. For more information on ASB before then, visit [www.asbuic.org](http://www.asbuic.org) or contact [asbuic@gmail.com](mailto:asbuic@gmail.com).

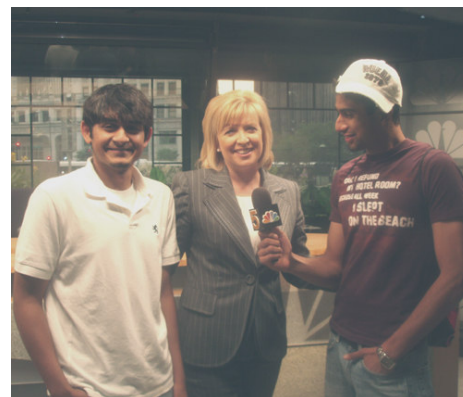
*Do you have questions or comments about the Honors College? Need a place to study or do homework? Come to the Honors College Lounge (109 BH) Monday through Thursday evenings from 5 – 8 p.m. A member of HCAB will be there to answer your queries or help in any way they can.*

## HOMework HOTLINE



**Homework Hotline volunteers at the news desk**

On Wednesday, September 5th, Honors College students participating in the NBC-5/Telemundo Homework Hotline traveled to the NBC Studios for an orientation to the program. After hearing the details of their duties as Hotline volunteers, students were treated to a tour of the newsroom and set. They met news anchors Bob Sirott, sportscaster Bruce Wolf, weatherman Brant Miller, and news anchor Allison Rosati. All the on-air talent thanked the volunteers for the hard work and commitment and invited them on the set for photos.



**Moiz Dawood, NBC Anchor Allison Rosati, and Adnan Cassim**

# EGYPTIAN ADVENTURES

At times, the heat was unbearable, the pollution was unthinkable, and the crowds were unimaginable. On the other hand, the architecture was unbelievable, the people and culture were unforgettable, and the experience was undeniably life-changing. Welcome to Cairo, Egypt, a city of great contrasts, where I spent two months studying abroad this past summer at the American University in Cairo (AUC). As a history major, the setting was perfectly suited for an enhanced educational experience. Inside the classroom and out, I learned so much about a country and people at the crossroads of two continents. As Africa's largest city, Cairo (Al-Qahira to the natives) opened my eyes as I threw myself head-first into an immersion adventure.

The AUC was a haven of palm trees and peace in the middle of a chaotic downtown. There, I appropriately enrolled in one sociology class on Arab society and one history class on Arab history. I was one of few American students, and I was taught by Egyptian professors. While the classes were all run in English, it was enlightening to learn about Middle Eastern issues from Middle Eastern perspectives. The sociology class was great because all of the questions I had regarding the social structure and the cultural differences that I encountered in Egypt were explained. In class, we discussed everything from the Arab-Israeli conflict to the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to the misconceptions of Islam to the dictator-in-disguise Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. And seeing as Cairo was essential in the grand scheme of Arab history, remnants of the dynasties and individuals I learned about in class were just a taxi ride away from school.

Despite being integral to Arab history, Egyptians were still very proud of their pharaonic pasts. After all, when the word "Egypt" comes to mind, one automatically renders images of Cleopatra and the pyramids. My friends and I went on horseback to catch the pyramids at sunrise, galloping at forty miles per hour across the dunes like desert bandits. Although the vague outline of the pyramids was visible in the morning smog, they looked stunning once the sky cleared. It was incredible to think that these colossal monuments were created more than 4500 years ago with near-perfect calculations and geometry. Unfortunately, if I turned 180 degrees away from the Sphinx, there was a KFC and Pizza Hut a mere fifty meters away and the rest of an ever-expanding Cairo encroaching on ancient lands. The Egyptian Museum across the university campus housed thousands of historical relics that were almost overflowing out of the place. While King Tut's famous artifacts were well-preserved in glass cases, the majority of other artifacts were out in the open. Thus, tourists had the opportunity to trace over hieroglyphics with their own fingers or rub Ramses' beard for good luck, which I found slightly disconcerting. The best kept and most impressive ruins of Egypt, however, were found in the ancient capital city of Thebes, or modern Luxor (Al-Uqsur). Temples were on every corner, and amazingly decorated pharaoh tombs lined up endlessly in the Valley of the Kings.

On top of having one of the richest histories of human civilization, no city knows how to have fun like Cairo. Egyptian families, including babies in strollers, regularly could be found gathering along the Nile in huge numbers on any given weekday at 2 AM. Often, teen-



Anand Sandesara stands before the Pyramid of Khafre in Giza, Egypt

agers would grab a few drinks and have a midnight picnic in a *felucca* boat on the Nile – an hour ride would only cost two dollars. And Egyptians are absolutely crazy about their soccer teams. We had the privilege – or misfortune, depending on your point of view – to attend the biggest match of the summer for the championships of the Egypt Cup. Two Cairo teams were playing, and we had to get through about a dozen rows of fully armed riot police just to enter the stadium. If we weren't wearing red, we apparently were in danger of being beaten by die-hard supporters of one of the teams so we all dressed accordingly. Once we finally reached our seats, frazzled and slightly terrified, we really got into the game, screaming Arabic chants in-sync with the other 75,000 flag-waving, face-painted fans in the stadium.

The weeknights were all spent in Cairo, but the weekends were for out-of-town excursions. For a small country, there were still so many things to do. Each weekend proved to be more incredible than the last, as we enjoyed the Mediterranean atmosphere of Alexandria, slept on Saharan sands during a two-night campout, snorkeled in the world-class reefs of the Red Sea, took advantage of the Middle East's largest resort town of Sharm-el-Sheikh and climbed Mount Sinai where Moses was said to have received the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately our plans to visit Jerusalem were thwarted with the shutting down of the Rafah Crossing on the Israeli-Egyptian border due to security reasons.

The shutting down of the border was just one of the many inconveniences faced in Egypt (the door to my taxi fell off, my bottled water was filled with tap water, the seven-hour bus ride to the desert oasis had more people standing than sitting, etc.). That is the beauty of Egypt, and like the Egyptians, one learns to go with the flow and be prepared for anything. Still, the inconveniences were always overshadowed by what else the country had to offer, including its more prosperous side. The AUC is considered to be one of the best universities in the Middle East, so many of the wealthiest families across the region send their children there making the university quite the elitist institution. My dormitory was located in a posh neighborhood on an embassy-filled island in the middle of the Nile, and my roommate was a very well-off resident of Dubai. A close friend invited me to dinner at his family's 22-story apartment building on the banks of the Nile where we ate on his penthouse terrace overlooking the city.

While these were all awesome experiences, I was able to really meet the typical Egyptian through my work with a student-run NGO (non-governmental organization) called BetterWorld. An NGO is a non-profit organization that is funded by private sources and aims to help the community in a specific way where government aid is lagging. I served as the summer coordinator for an English teaching program and also taught English classes myself with a close friend from UC Berkeley. We traveled across Cairo twice a week to a Coptic Christian community where we helped young adults with grammar and conversational English skills to help increase their chances of landing a job. After spending two months with our class of twenty-five students, we made some great friends with whom we still keep in touch.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) assists undergraduate and professional students in applying for nationally-competitive scholarships. We also provide information about other scholarships either at UIC or external to the university, advice on application preparation, and assistance throughout the application process.

As the school year starts to move along, have you begun to wonder if there is funding available to help you cover your costs??? Honors students should consider the following scholarships, for which OSSP will help you apply:

## **National Science Foundation (National Deadlines, beginning of Nov. 2007)**

The NSF offers awards to graduating seniors and first year graduate students that provide an annual \$10,500 tuition allowance and \$30,000 stipend towards graduate school. Most fields of science, math, engineering and the social sciences are eligible. *MD, JD, MSW and clinical psychology degrees are not funded by NSF.* Students apply directly to NSF. More information at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp/nsf>. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

## **Truman Scholarship (UIC Deadline: November 9, 2007)**

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards \$30,000 scholarships to students who want to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in public service leadership. Each year 70-75 awards are given, and winners are provided with leadership training, graduate school counseling and internship opportunities with federal agencies. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.7 or higher and have public service related experiences and goals, and must be a full-time junior level student at a four-year institution pursuing a bachelor's degree. US citizens only. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu). **Note: UIC is only allowed to nominate (4) students per year. Students undertake an institutional review after the UIC deadline.**

## **Goldwater Scholarship (UIC Deadline: November 15, 2007)**

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. Candidates must 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.** For more information, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu). **Note: UIC is only allowed to nominate (4) students per year. Students undertake an institutional review after the UIC deadline.**

## **Merage Institute Graduate Fellowship (UIC Deadline: November 15, 2007)**

The Merage Institute for the American Dream is dedicated to promoting opportunities for immigrants to achieve **their** American dreams. The foundation provides each of its Fellows with a two-year stipend of \$20,000. 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. Candidates will be selected based on demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, creativity, and consistent ethical behavior. US citizens, permanent residents, or immigrants indicating that they are in the process of becoming a citizen are all eligible. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu). **Note: UIC is only allowed to nominate (3) students per year. Students undertake an institutional review after the UIC deadline.**

## **USA-Today All-USA College Academic Team (National Deadline: November 30, 2007)**

The All-USA College Academic Team honors full-time undergraduates who not only excel in scholarship but also extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society. Criteria include grades, academic rigor, leadership, activities and most important, the student's essay describing his or her most outstanding intellectual endeavor done while in college. The contest seeks not only academic excellence, but an outstanding original project or creation. Candidates must be full-time, undergraduate juniors or seniors attending a four-year institution. For more information, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

## **NSEP Boren Scholarship (UIC Deadline: December 3, 2007)**

The NSEP Scholarships offer a unique opportunity for U.S. undergraduates interested in working for the government to study abroad. Scholarships are awarded to American students who are concerned with international issues and foreign languages in world regions that are critical to U.S. interests. **The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.** Winners receive \$2,500-\$20,000 depending on the length of study. Candidates should be aware that winners are required to 'pay back' their time spent abroad through **paid work** for the federal government. Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence, and should be able to articulate their need to study in the country they choose on the application. US citizens only. If interested, contact OSSP at 5-2477 or [ssp@uic.edu](mailto:ssp@uic.edu).

# 362,800 MINUTES IN SPAIN

ELIZABETH BOYLE

362,800 minutes, how do you measure a year in the Study Abroad Life? It is only after 24,480 minutes- just a little over two weeks- in Madrid, Spain that my eyes are finally returning to their normal size and are losing the look of bafflement that they have been harboring for the past fortnight. Even more apparent than confusion, is an intense excitement and determination to overcome the challenges of conquering culture shock in order to fully experience a year of Study Abroad and to reap the benefits of the numerous opportunities that await a year spent in Spain.

*"I have learned that the only way to begin to assimilate into new surroundings is to jump feet first into the experience, and to immerse oneself in the new and the unknown."*

In the past two weeks I have learned that the only way to begin to assimilate into new surroundings is to jump feet first into the experience, and to immerse oneself in the new and the unknown. Thankfully, I am in a prime location to do so, as I am living in an apartment in the center of bustling Madrid. All I need do is step outside my front door and the culture of Madrid swarms before me. Since I am less than a five minute walk from a myriad of cafes, parks and plazas, I do not lack for activities to fill my days.

Class did not officially begin until September 17<sup>th</sup>. Therefore plenty of time was available to begin to discover the essence of Madrid. One has the choice of spending

hours within the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia viewing the works of Picasso, or of taking an afternoon to analyze the darker images of Goya, Velázquez and El Greco within the walls of the Prado, or even of wandering the halls of the Palacio Real, the former home of the Spanish Royals, with its endless collection of rooms, art, and frescoed ceilings. Nights seem to stretch on for an eternity, and are filled with *tapas* eaten in the Plaza Mayor or the more bohemian neighborhood of Chueca. Spontaneous dancing erupts before your eyes, while the music of street performers fills the air. The music mixes with the mellow and resonant strands of the flamenco that floats from windows of the numerous *mesones* surrounding the plaza. As morning dawns, the day is welcomed with cups of *chocolate* and plates of *churros*, and beds are sought to prepare oneself for another day.

With 338,320 minutes awaiting me to continue to discover Madrid, I cannot help but wonder how I will measure my year here. If it will be in the number of museums visited, the number of cups of coffee drunk in a café, the intensity of discussions about Lorca and Rulfo in my classes, or in the advancement of my Spanish vocabulary. I know that the answer lies before me, and I have 338,320 minutes left to discover it.

# Honors College Ice Cream Social!



HCAB members Keerthi Ranganath, Nilay Shah and Nirmal Pandya serve ice cream to Seyi Akintorin at the Ice Cream Social held on Wednesday, September 26th



Victoria Burdett and Kathryn Sudkamp enjoying their ice cream at the HCAB Ice Cream Social

# A BALINESE EXPERIENCE

ADAM KURANISHI

The notion of joining student organizations on campus and “getting involved” for many students is often looked upon as an attempt to fill a resume, and after graduation, slightly impactful, a mere waste-of-time, and minimal in comparison to the magnitude of the grade point average. During my first year of college, pursuing extra-curriculars that exemplified my interests, and remaining “socially active,” I found myself two semesters later, appreciating my initial involvement. ‘Planting seeds’ in the right places, and being fortunate for greater opportunities to blossom. After my freshman year of college, a successful Chicago-native entrepreneur gave me the opportunity to experience Indonesia for a month, back pack and live in home stays, while I attend a peace conference held on the island of Bali. Indeed the experience was the opportunity of a lifetime.

My sponsor thought it would be a great opportunity to network, promote the groups I’m involved with at UIC, spark new ideas, and most importantly, serve as a personal, enlightening experience. Bali, Indonesia, “the world’s #1 tourist island” according to Travel + Leisure magazine, is the destination for honeymooners and family vacations, with over three million international visitors annually, and \$5-billion-per year tourist industry. The tourist generated economy attracts its customers to the beautiful beaches, gorgeous weather, rain forests, and outstanding, preserved culture. The most astonishing aspect of Bali is despite its reliance on foreign, western vacationers, the civilization has maintained its profound traditions, religion, and customs. Backpacking, I was astonished to witness the well sustained rituals and inherent ideologies. Highlighted in the tourist guides, the Balinese, enchanting, non-western culture is a major attraction.

Given the opportunity to explore Balinese life, I found it necessary to build companionships and connect with people, in an attempt to investigate beyond the idealized, tour guide perspective. By asking questions, participating in religious rituals, mimicking the Balinese lifestyle, and experiencing life there hands-on, I would soon witness the complications that arise from

maintaining an enduring culture.

Common for most of the public, political apathy and detachment from governmental issues has plagued the Balinese for decades. In the successful, yet continuous effort to preserve vast traditions in a rapidly growing, western-tourist generated economy, the people find themselves lacking concern and energy for many social and political issues both domestically and nationally. Issues of political corruption and human rights violations are often uncontested. Neglected public education has resulted in a large illiterate population, and is seen as a root cause for generational political apathy. Political Science studies have shown that generally, more educated individuals understand the importance of governance, and are thus more likely to engage in political discussion and activism. Many Balinese youth I encountered, told me that it is frowned upon for students to leave their village for adequate schooling. As a result, the children are forced to attend the local, incompetent schools, resulting in uneducated youth, perpetuating the ‘revolving door’ of permanently illiterate generations.

Looking back at my experience in Bali, I am very grateful for the opportunity. Putting things into perspective both socially and politically, I kept a conscious eye for the convoluted problems of our world. The experience expanded my socially conscious mind, and I realized that more work can and must be done on a global level.

When pondering the importance of international travel and activism, I am reminded of the old cliché, “the world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” As students, we are all taking selective courses to prepare us for the world ahead, and possibly cultivate ourselves into enlightened beings. In order for us to get the most out of our college experience, we must go beyond the curriculum. We must participate, elaborate, and challenge our passions and ideals, and if attempted fervently and attentively, opportunities will flourish.

*Don't forget to read  
the announcements on  
the Honors College  
web page:*

*[http://www.uic.edu/  
honors/](http://www.uic.edu/honors/)*

*You can find out  
information about  
research  
opportunities, campus  
employment, student  
organization events,  
scholarships, and  
much more!*

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

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

Please contact Jennifer Kosco at [jkosco@uic.edu](mailto:jkosco@uic.edu) if you are interested.

### Ampersand Board

Caitlin Cohn, Editor  
Karen Oram, Layout  
Jennifer Kosco, Advisor

#### Contributors:

Elizabeth Boyle  
Jacqueline Hartford  
Adam Kuranishi  
Eugene Liebensohn  
Brian Lin  
Amber Orenstein  
Anand Sandesara



## Honors College Tutoring is Here to Help!

**Do you need a little help with Organic Chemistry? Calc II confusing you? Fellow Honors College students are ready to help you in these subjects and many more. Help is only a staircase away.**

**The Honors College Tutoring Center is in Room 220 BH, on the second floor of Burnham Hall, near the Oasis. Hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. You don't need an appointment and it's free to all UIC students.**

**Check out the schedule online:**

**<http://www.uic.edu/honors/learning/tutoring.shtml>**

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN WITH ASB'S AUCTION

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Auction is Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have a silent auction going on throughout the day and our live auction will begin at 5 p.m. This exciting and lively event will take place in the Illinois Room of Student Center East (SCE). Former Honors College Associate Dean and Math professor Jeff Lewis is returning as our Guest Auctioneer.

Some of the exciting items to be auctioned this year include

Spa/salon gift certificates  
Taylor Street/South Campus restaurant gift certificates  
Downtown Hotel packages, including the Conrad Hotel Chicago (value: \$600!)  
Mystic Blue Dinner Cruise (value: \$200)  
Barbara's Bookstore gift certificate  
Gift certificate for Rosebud restaurants  
Wine Tasting at Lush (value: \$200)  
Zanie's Comedy Club tickets  
Massage from Campus Recreation

And lots more! So come on out and support Alternative Spring Break at the auction. We depend on the continued and generous support of the UIC community. Help us to continue to serve others!

*(EGYPTIAN ADVENTURES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)*

Now that I'm back in Chicago, I cannot deny that I love being under the shadow of a world-class skyline. Still, I sorely miss the rustic beauty of Cairo with its hundreds of mosque minarets poking out of the cityscape and the Muslim call to prayer echoing across neighborhoods in perfect unison five times a day. I miss the throngs of friendly Egyptians dressed in their tradi-

tional *galabiyas* on every street and using the Egyptian Arabic that I learned with shopkeepers and street vendors. I could go on for days about the mouth-watering chicken kabobs or the hours spent wandering around the Aladdin-esque markets of the Khan-al-Khalili, but to know Egypt, one has to go there. I cannot wait to revisit it in the future, and *insha'allah* (god-willing, as the Egyptians would say) you will get that chance as well.