

# UIC College of Nursing Urban Health Program Newsletter

## Urban Health Program Annual Cultural Workshop: *Fires in the Mirror*

On November 21, 2006, the College of Nursing Urban Health Program held its third annual Cultural Workshop: *Fires in the Mirror*. The annual workshop is a part of the program's ongoing efforts to promote cultural competence training among students, faculty and staff within the college. In 1991, in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, New York, a Hasidic Jewish man's car jumped a curb and killed a seven-year-old black child. Hours later, a Hasidic Jewish student was stabbed to death in what appeared to be a retaliatory act. Despite its previous atmosphere of tolerance for its divergent cultures, the city exploded with racial tension and riots ensued. Writer and actor Anna Deavere Smith created the play, *Fires in the Mirror*, re-telling the tragic story based upon verbatim excerpts from her powerful interviews with victims, eyewitnesses, residents of Crown Heights, politicians, activists, religious leaders and gangs.

Students and staff at the UIC College of Nursing volunteered to participate in the staged reading, taking on the persona of the characters within the play and making the reading come alive. A group discussion (facilitated by Dr. Cynthia Barnes-Boyd (CON Assistant Dean) and Rabbi Gabriel Lakser) with students, faculty and staff who attended the workshop followed the reading. The focus of the discussion was how race/ethnicity can influence viewpoints. Almost all undergraduate nursing students at the Chicago campus attended the morning workshop and a lively and candid dis-

cussion ensued. An afternoon workshop was also held for graduate students, faculty and staff. Below are a few of the comments from attendees regarding what they learned at the workshop:

"It is important to appreciate people for who they are and to understand that they are a part of their own culture."

"The assumptions that I make about someone's culture based on race can be incorrect."

"Our histories come along with us, but we don't need to be ruled by them."

"This workshop reinforced the idea of listening and being open. It also reminded me that we all bring our own perspectives that are a culmination of our whole lives."

"It's important to talk to people about differences and to examine the ways to communicate effectively."

The Urban Health Program committee will continue to seek new ways to bring together students,

faculty and staff within the college and promote open discussions about cultural issues they encounter on a daily basis, especially in their nursing practice.



Michael Seligman reads for undergraduate nursing students at the morning performance.



Bea Ade-Oshifogun (right) reads while Piaf Latham Winter Green (left, Director) and Shirley Stephenson (middle) wait to read their parts.



Kay Scanlan reads with the rest of the cast looking-on.

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## Get to Know the Democratic Presidential Candidates and Where They Stand on Health Care by Sheon K. MacNeill

The 2008 United States Presidential race is expected to be the first in 80 years that will not include a president or vice president elect. Instead, the candidates competing for the White House range from seasoned and experienced politicians to fresh and emerging new stars. Democrats and Republicans alike are seeking to move the country in a different direction filled with promise and hope.

For the Democrats, top contenders include Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama.

### Profiles

Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Yale Law School. The former first lady was elected to the United States Senate by the people of New York on November 7, 2000.

The focus of most of her public service career has been children and families. Senator Clinton continues to make children and families a priority by working on their behalf to ensure safety of prescription drugs, to increase health insurance coverage for children of low-income families, as well as helping to address environmental hazards in schools.

Currently, Senator Clinton serves on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; the Special Committee on Aging; and the Senate Armed Services Committee.



Barack Obama, the United States Senator of Illinois, was born on August 4, 1961, in Hawaii. He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law School. He took office on January 4, 2005. Prior to taking office, Obama served eight years in the Illinois state senate building a reputation as a leader.

Senator Obama advocates for working families and the building of stronger communities by focusing on economic growth and increased job opportunities. Key legislative issues he has supported include early childhood education, increased funding for AIDS prevention and care programs and health insurance for the uninsured.

He serves on the Foreign Relations Committee; the Veteran's Affairs Committee; the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

### Where do they stand on the issue of health care?

It is estimated that the United States has approximately 46 million uninsured individuals. These presidential candidates hope to reduce the number of uninsured by promoting affordable, accessible and quality health care. Both senators express concern over protecting vulnerable populations such as the elderly and poor by addressing proposed Medicaid and Medicare reforms.

Although, the two candidates profiled in this article are Democratic, it is important to note that this is not an endorsement for any candidate. Republican candidates and their views will be featured in the next issue of the UHP Newsletter. Stay tuned.

## Scholarship News: Congrats to the 2006/2007 UHP Scholarship Recipients

Many Urban Health Program students received scholarships for the 2006/2007 academic year, exemplifying excellence in academics. Congratulations to the following top award recipients:

### Abraham Lincoln Fellowship

Cassandra Ford

### Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship

Christie Lawrence

### Board of Trustee Tuition Waivers

Barbara Conner

Mary Muse

### Boothroyd Scholarship

Magic Allen

Dahiana Comas

Sylvia Crawford

Kesha Eason

Trishna Easter

Maricela Garcia

Cristina Kelly

Micaela Lucero

Silvia Magallanes

Solomon Njuba

Ibukunoluwa Paseda

Danielle Pope

Danielle Ramirez

Maria Reyes

Bridgette Williams

Feben Woldemariam

### Chancellor's Fund

Stefani Alexander

### Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowships

Beverly Letcher

Vanessa Luna

### Maternal-Child Awards

Marsha Hill—WHNP/NMW

Debrea Griffith—Pediatric NP

### Roche Scholarship

Isabel Bales

### Van Doren Scholarship

Guadalupe Ramirez

Leslie Sanchez

## 2006/2007 Annual UHP Welcome Reception

The College of Nursing Urban Health Program likes to begin each new academic year with a welcome reception for new and continuing UHP students. After many years of hosting the reception, it has become the anticipated event of the year for UHP students and UHP faculty and staff. The 2006/2007 welcome reception was held at Leona's Restaurant on September 11, 2006. The evening began with an ice-breaker to help everyone get to know each other, followed by a "Get to Know Your Dean" activity. Joan Shaver, PhD, RN, FAAN, UIC College of Nursing Dean, answered questions posed to her by students who attended the reception. Questions ranged from "Do you recycle?" to "What was your favorite clinical rotation in nursing school" and "What is the Dean's role as far as the student's welfare is concerned?"

Students in general rarely get a chance to have an open dialogue with the dean

of the institution they are attending, so this was a wonderful opportunity for UHP students enrolled at the UIC College of Nursing to get to know Dean Shaver on a personal and professional level. Dean Shaver shared her vision for the college and emphasized the college's mission to be the preferred institution to study, learn and work. The college strives to provide students with the best learning opportunities and experi-



Ramon Gonzalez and Leslie Sanchez (Undergraduate students) take a break from chatting to smile for the camera.

ences possible. Dean Shaver also shared that as a Canadian recycling is very important to her, and she does recycle.

As always, the welcome reception was an enjoyable evening filled with food, conversation and laughter. The Urban Health Program looks forward



From left: Carrie Klima (CON faculty), Tracy Bartholomew (CON staff), Suzanne Herrera (MS student), Fozia Mohammed (MS student) and Andrea Schmoyer (CON staff).



Melissa Hernandez (College of Nursing Project Coordinator), Donna Calvin (PhD student) and Susana Castro (PhD student).

to welcoming new and returning UHP students to the UIC College of Nursing at the 2007/2008 welcome reception.

### *Follow the Money: Top Cities and Salaries for Nurses...* Featured in Minority Nurse Magazine

The spring 2007 issue of Minority Nurse Magazine features an article titled *Follow the Money: Top Cities and Salaries for Nurses* written by Margarett Burnette. Over the next few years America's baby boomer population will reach retirement age, and over the next 20 years a generation of RNs will reach retirement age leaving a great need for nurses, especially minority nurses. As a result of this need, minority nurses "can have their pick of jobs anywhere in the country" (p. 26). In the article, cities that offer the best employment opportunities for nurses based on salary, opportunities for career ad-

vancement, quality of life, affordable housing and cultural and ethnic diversity are listed, including the annual mean salary, demographics and future trends.

Testimonials from nurses who work in the cities are also provided to give readers a first-hand account. The top cities include: Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Charlotte, N.C.; Houston, TX; Las Vegas, NV; Oakland, CA; Phoenix and Mesa, AZ; Tampa and St. Petersburg, FL; and West Palm Beach, FL. To read the entire article and more about what makes these cities so attractive, visit [www.minoritynurse.com](http://www.minoritynurse.com).



### Diversifying the Nursing Workforce

In 1978, the University of Illinois at Chicago created the Urban Health Program (UHP) to recruit, retain and graduate students from groups underrepresented in the health professions, specifically African American, Hispanic and Native American students. Any student that self-identifies as a member of one of the above racial/ethnic groups is automatically a member of the College of Nursing Urban Health Program. The mission of the Urban Health Program is to improve the quality of health care services for medically underserved urban populations by expanding health profession education opportunities for underrepresented groups and others interested in serving medically underserved urban areas.

Phone: 312-996-0810  
Fax: 312-996-8066  
Email: [uhpcon@uic.edu](mailto:uhpcon@uic.edu)

UIC College of Nursing is ranked among the top 10 nursing schools in the U.S. and is one of the largest and most prestigious sources of nursing leadership in Illinois and beyond.

#### Degrees offered:

- BSN
- MS
- DNP
- PhD

#### Campuses:

- Chicago
- Peoria
- Quad Cities
- Rockford
- Urbana-Champaign

VISIT US ON THE WEB:  
[WWW.UIC.EDU/NURSING](http://WWW.UIC.EDU/NURSING)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UHP Student Luncheons:

*For all CON UHP Students*

Monday, March 19, 2007  
12-1pm, CON Room 145

Monday, April 23, 2007  
12-1pm, CON Room 151

Please RSVP to [dtcarter@uic.edu](mailto:dtcarter@uic.edu)

### UHP Illinois Health Professions Spring Student Conference

*For middle school and high school students interested in the health professions*

Saturday, May 5, 2007, 9am-2pm

Behavioral Sciences Building

1007 W. Harrison Street, Lecture Hall 250

### College of Nursing Information Sessions

GEP/BSN: Monday, March 26, 2007, 6-8pm

BSN: Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 12-2pm

GEP/BSN: Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 6-8pm

All sessions are held at the Chicago campus (845 S. Damen Avenue, 1st Floor Lobby).

### National Conferences:

#### **National Association of Hispanic Nurses**

July 17-20, 2007

Industry Hills, California

For more information:

[www.thehispanicnurses.org](http://www.thehispanicnurses.org)

#### **National Black Nurses Association**

July 25-29, 2007

Atlanta, Georgia

For more information: [www.nbna.org](http://www.nbna.org)

Are you interested in attending the Hispanic or Black nurses conference? Current UIC College of Nursing UHP students can request UHP sponsorship to attend. Contact Dawn Carter at [dtcarter@uic.edu](mailto:dtcarter@uic.edu) for more information.

**Do you have any suggestions for the next issue of the UHP newsletter or would you like to contribute an article? If so, please contact Dawn Carter at [dtcarter@uic.edu](mailto:dtcarter@uic.edu).**