

Outstanding Honors College Seniors

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Alexander M. Kravets
Freshman
Neuroscience

Honors College students Sarah Lee and Viveka Patel were this year's recipients of the HCAB Scholarship. Every year, the scholarship is awarded to two deserving Honors College students who are selected for their leadership, Honors College involvement, and academic excellence. Lee and Patel have remarkable accomplishments behind them and admirable aspirations ahead of them. Coincidentally, they are also both neuroscience seniors who intend to become involved in health care.

Lee, a member of the GPPA Medicine program, has cultivated her passion for learning and interpersonal development both in and out of the classroom. A Russian minor, Lee's Capstone focuses on cultural representations of flooding in Russia. Lee has developed invaluable leadership skills through her roles as a Peer Mentor and Resident Assistant in campus housing, as well as Editor-in-Chief of the *Ampersand* for two years. One of her fondest memories from the Honors College is taking HON 201: Music Therapy and Music Medicine, which led to her volunteering in the psychiatric ward of Rush University Medical

Center playing piano for patients. She looks forward to attending UIC College of Medicine next fall.

Patel, a member of the GPPA Dentistry program, is a prominent leader in the UIC student community. Patel is the president of the Indian Student Association, *UIC OneWorld*, and the College of Cycling. Her study abroad experience in Chile stands out as one of the most significant Honors Activities during her time at UIC. For her Capstone, Patel investigated methods to encourage health care practitioners to provide services in low-income communities. Her passion for patient care has shaped her goal of becoming a prominent advocate for legislation and policy changes in favor of increased access to oral health care. Ultimately, Patel desires to inspire change by reducing disparities in health care as a dentist.

Both Lee and Patel have refined their goals as students in the Honors College. The facilitation of their academic and personal development in a diverse community is a testament to what the Honors College has to offer its students.



Sarah Lee and Viveka Patel receiving awards from HCAB Vice President Polatip Subanajouy

A Note from the Dean



Ralph Keen
Interim Dean of the
Honors College

Dear Friends of the Honors College,

The sound of students completing their Capstones, writing papers, studying for exams—not sounds at all, of course, but a quiet energy that comes from working with a purpose and finishing up serious projects. The end of spring semester feels different, and the sense of accomplishment, like the hearty anticipation that pervades Burnham Hall in the first weeks of fall semester, feels good. I hope it's been a good year for all.

In this issue of the *Ampersand* you'll see why this has been such a satisfying year: loads of awards, HCAB scholarship recipients, an impressive Capstone project by Meghana Yerrapothu, and a fascinating course by Faculty Fellow Jennifer Rupert. In addition, you'll read about an important new book on the practice of medicine by two members of our community, and meet Professor David Wirtshafter, who has served the Honors College in many ways over the years.

The energy that fuels this work also ensures that there is a great deal of fun here, not just in the satisfaction of doing good work but in participating in events like the HCAB weekly socials, the student-faculty luncheon that is always a great success, and of course the Ball. In the following pages you'll get a glimpse of the noisy life of the Honors College that balances out the quiet energy devoted to Capstones and papers and exams.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Ralph Keen
Interim Dean

End of Year Events and Deadlines

UIC Student Research Forum

Apr. 12, 1:00 PM • UIC Forum

Honors College Publications Release Party

Apr. 13, 4:00 PM • 109 Burnham Hall

Capstone General Information Workshop

Apr. 14, 3:00 PM • 121 Burnham Hall

Chicago Signature Honors Program: Richard III

Apr. 14, 8:00 PM • Steppenwolf Theater

Honors Capstone Progress Reports and Completion Forms Due

Apr. 29, 4:00 PM • Honors College Front Desk

Chicago Signature Honors Program: Capoeira Interactive Workshop

Apr. 29, 6:00 PM • Village Leadership Academy

Spring 2016 Honors College Convocation

May 4, 7:00 PM • UIC Forum

Honors Activity Completion Forms Due

May 6, 4:00 PM • Honors College Front Desk

HCAB Update

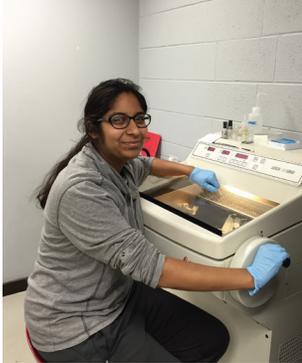
HCAB would like to thank the Honors College for a fantastic year with two successful luncheons, new events, and a memorable Honors College ball. Keep an eye out for upcoming events during the rest of this semester, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

—Liz Stark, HCAB President

Drug Reward Systems and the Influence of Hunger



Yuwa Edomwande
Sophomore
Biological Sciences



Yerrapothu conducting research

Meghana Yerrapothu, an Honors College senior and neuroscience major, has spent the last year investigating how motivational state and hunger influence brain responses to drugs of abuse. She hopes the results will identify neural targets for therapeutics to prevent relapse to drug-seeking that occurs more readily in a hungry state. For her experiment, she measured the locomotion of rats induced by the injection of cocaine—perhaps the most robust behavioral response to this drug that is abused by humans. She pretreated the rats with either the delivery of a drug to the brain that induces hunger or a control infusion. This long-term research project has helped her understand behavioral and neural responses to drugs that humans come to abuse.

Yerrapothu has experienced a learning curve with her research. She recalls feeling over-

whelmed with collecting data, keeping it organized, and trying to synthesize the findings. However, she now has a new appreciation for data analysis and finds it to be the most interesting part of the project. She asserts, “It is awesome to think about how some small pieces of data may have such a bigger meaning.”

Yerrapothu thanks her advisor, Dr. Mitchell Roitman of the Department of Psychology, and Samantha Fortin, a doctoral student in neuroscience, for pushing her to take on the project and inspiring her to continue her involvement in research after graduation. Next year, Yerrapothu plans to continue conducting research during a gap year, before applying to Doctor of Physical Therapy/Ph.D. programs. When describing the impact of her Capstone, Yerrapothu gushes, “I have really grown to love research!”

From Hip Hop to Horror: Shifting Perspectives through HON 123



Michelle Farler
Sophomore
Kinesiology

This semester Honors College students are gaining a new perspective on American popular culture in the Honors Core course “From Hip Hop to Horror: The Sexual and Racial Politics of American Popular Media.” Dr. Jennifer Rupert, a lecturer in the English and Gender and Women’s Studies departments, has taught this course for four semesters. She developed the course to challenge students’ outlook on media and popular culture through examining the representation of gender, sex, and racial differences. The course explores genres such as advertising, mainstream hip hop music, social media and the horror film industry. Rupert’s goal is for her students “to trace not only existing patterns of misrepresentation but also emergent patterns of resistance.”

Students are encouraged to step outside the American perspective and critically analyze news and entertainment from around the world. The dialogue-based format of the class encourages students to have a more “heightened awareness” of the relationships between popular culture



Dr. Jennifer Rupert

and economic and political systems present today. Ben McClerklin, a current student in Rupert’s class, explains, “As a bioengineer primarily focused on math and science classes, it’s nice to be able to understand the causes of racism and sexism in mainstream media. Professor Rupert creates a class in which your opinion is not ridiculed; students are allowed to speak openly despite how controversial a topic may be.” Rupert’s bubbly personality and passion for teaching have created a space that allows for students to engage in dialogue, question their opinions, and broaden their perspective.



Saturday March 5, 2016
6:00 PM-12:00 AM
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza



Photo Credit:
Alicia McConnell-Hatch



23rd Annual Honors College Ball





**A Magnificent
Mile of Memories**



Focus on a Fellow: David Wirtshafter



Meghana Yerrapothu
Senior
Neuroscience



Dr. David Wirtshafter

Honors College Faculty Fellow Dr. David Wirtshafter, Professor of Psychology and Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies in Neuroscience, began his journey at UIC as an undergraduate. He went on to earn his master's and Ph.D. from UIC and has taught here since 1981. He is confident that he has been on this campus longer than most. Along the way, he has witnessed many changes to the campus. Wirtshafter currently spends his time advising, researching, and teaching numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Wirtshafter has won the Excellence in Teaching Award, Silver Circle Award for Teaching, and Teaching Recognition Program Award.

As a Faculty Fellow for the past 27 years, Wirtshafter mentors and guides undergraduates on matters related to his discipline, Honors Activities, and Capstone projects. His door is always open for students who want to chat and utilize him as a resource. Wirtshafter believes that Capstones can really benefit students, as these research opportunities mimic graduate school on a smaller scale and give students an idea of how areas of academia function. He values his role as a mentor because it allows him to “motivate students to learn on their own and discover new ideas to share with their fellow students.”

2015–16 Selected Honors College Scholarship and Award Recipients

Nationally Competitive Awards

Fulbright Scholar Awardees

Danya Ata, English Teaching Assistant in Turkey
Jinit Desai, English Teaching Assistant in Colombia
Alexis Reisch, Research Grant in Sweden

Fulbright Scholar Finalists (Results TBA)

Bridget Hansen, English Teaching Assistant in Bahrain

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

Deborah Park

Truman Scholarship

Zoie Sheets

Marshall Scholarship Finalist

Navika Shukla

Rhodes Scholar Finalist

Navika Shukla

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Jessica Garcia, for study abroad in South Korea
Tariq Ghazawi, for study abroad in Jordan

Critical Languages Scholarship

Maria Folvarska

New Sector Alliance Residency in Social Enterprise Fellowship

Brian Geiger

UIC and Honors College Awards

Activities Honorary Society

Tiffany Cheng	Jauwan Hall	Usama Ibrahim
Sarah Lee	Queena Luu	Winifred Obanor
Rohan Patel	Rafid Rahman	Zoie Sheets

UIC Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship

Maria Arianas	Willard Fountain	Marlin Amy Halder
Jauwan Hall	Danmei Huang	Ogechi Ike
Michelle Liu	Winifred Obanor	Kashif Osmani

Honors College Advisory Board Scholarship

Sarah Lee
Viveka Patel

Honors College Research and Travel Grants

Jason Abraham	Gaurav Agnihotri
Sami Al Ahmadi	Nur Allababidi
Tania Alvarado	Ariunaa Bayanjargal
Sabrina Bellamy	Jannie Bolotnikov
Dam Hee Chae	Tiffany Cheng
Sun Choi	Sara Colin
Samantha Dabha	Amy De La Torre
Paul Dobria	Naomi Faulk
Elizabeth Geevarghese	Jesse Gerringer
Samaneh Ghassemi	Allison Giuffre

Honors College Research and Travel Grants (continued)

Szymon Gluc	Beatrice Go
Melissa Gonzalez	Marlin Amy Halder
Denisse Herrera	Danmei Huang
Zeynep Ikiz	Mika Ishikawa
Dayeon Kang	Shannon Karich
Kayla Kreutzer	Hans-Christian Lauer
Ayesha Leitao	Ayola Leitao
Jessica Lepe	Zhihua Li
Kathleen Lieffers	Jasmine Liu
Przemyslaw Lukacz	Elizabeth Fernanda Malagon
Shannon Menard	Ruta Misiunas
Vanesha Mistry	Monika Mulica
Robert Ng	Andrea Kristin Origenes
Alex Ourth	Dimitra Papadakis
Deborah Park	Stephanie Pocius
Jasmine Povlick	Renad Ramahi
Celeena Remmers	Maureen Russo
Muna Saber	Zoie Sheets
Zamia Siddiqui	Daniella Signorile
Alexander Simon	Sanjana Srinivasan
Nidhi Suthar	Kevin Tam
Neel Thakkar	Kadeja Tyler
Natalie Weaver	

Dear Freshman Friend



Rachel Nally
Freshman
Biology

One of the most important lessons that I learned during my freshman year is not to put too much pressure on myself about school work and grades. I often began to panic about getting a bad grade on an exam, immediately worrying about how it would affect my grade point average and whether or not I would pass the class. However, as I am approaching the end of my first year, I realize I should have spent less time worrying. The best you can do is your best. Every disappointing grade is a lesson: you learn that you

need to study more or study differently, and you gain a better understanding of the professor's assessment style. Ultimately, you may realize that even though a situation may be incredibly stressful, it will end up okay. As always, go into whatever you are doing with a positive outlook and have confidence in your abilities.

"If you doubt you can accomplish something, then you can't accomplish it. You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through." —Rosalynn Carter

From the Editor's Desk: Farewell Letters

Over the past four years, the *Ampersand* has played a pivotal role in my personal development as an editor and leader. I am humbled to have been part of a team of such dedicated and talented writers and staff. I extend my gratitude to all of the writers who have contributed their time and words to the *Ampersand*. In addition, I want to thank the graduate editorial advisors over the past four years—Jenn Hawe, Leigh Hellman, and Abby Kindelsperger—for their tireless effort and perpetual patience. Thank you to Dean Hall, Professor Chiang, and Dean Keen for their support and guidance, always helping us make last-minute changes before our deadlines. I am also grateful to former editor-in-chief Avni Bavishi, as well as former editors Alvin George and Hannah Lee, for setting the momentum for our continuous improvement as a publication. An enormous thank you to our current and former layout editors Christine Lee and Shreya Thakkar for their tremendous work in revamping the *Ampersand* layout to make it so creative and organized. Finally, my heartiest thanks goes to Sara Mehta, our staff advisor, who has guided me with such optimism and patience as I stumbled through mistakes to learn about the leadership and troubleshooting that goes into publications!

Finally, to the E-Board: thank you to Ricardo for your always-productive efforts, Maria for your ever-cheerful spirit, and Sarita for your pragmatism and keen eye for detail. The *Ampersand* has been my most frustrating, most meaningful, and most fulfilling experience at the Honors College, and I will miss it dearly next year. I cannot wait to see how our publication grows under Sarita's leadership, and I look forward to seeing the E-Board welcome new editors Michelle Farler, Yuwa Edomwande, and Sanjana Srinivasan. I cannot wait to see what Volume 10 brings.

—Sarah Lee, Editor-in-Chief, Senior, Neuroscience

My involvement in the *Ampersand* has taught me how to communicate ideas and express myself in an informed, effective way; I have grown not only as a writer but also as an individual. I am lucky to consider my fellow E-Board members and Editorial Advisors, Sara and Abby, among my closest friends and mentors! While I am excited to begin medical school at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in the fall, leaving UIC and the Honors College is so bittersweet! I'm going to miss it!

—Maria Nakhasi, Editor, Senior, Neuroscience



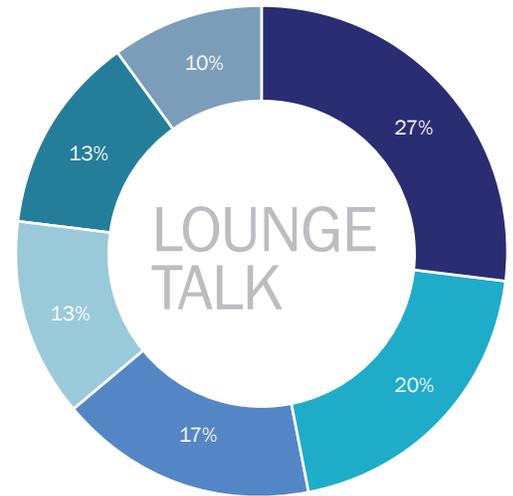
Lounge Talk: What are your plans for this summer?



Margav Soni
Sophomore
Neuroscience

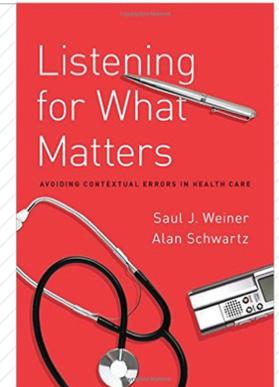
With summer right around the corner, many students are already lining up their summer activities. There are many options to fill the time, such as relaxing at home, taking summer classes, gaining job or research experience, or going on a fun vacation. I surveyed 30 Honors College students about their plans for the upcoming summer break. If you are still looking for ideas for what to do with your free time, take a look at what some fellow students will be up to!

- Summer classes
- Research
- Volunteering or shadowing
- Relaxing
- Vacation
- Working



Listening for What Matters

Saul Weiner, MD, and Alan Schwartz, PhD, both UIC College of Medicine faculty and members of the Honors College community, have recently published *Listening for What Matters: Avoiding Contextual Errors in Health Care* (Oxford University Press, January 2016). The book describes over a decade of research exploring what happens when physicians get the science right (i.e. their care is “evidence based”) but the care plan wrong (e.g. prescribing a medication a patient can’t afford when a cheaper alternative is available), a phenomenon they term “contextual error.” The work is based on sending actors on hundreds of undercover visits into clinical practices as patients, and also on over a thousand visits in which real patients audio recorded their interactions with their physicians. The book is written for an educated lay audience.



Mission Statement

To highlight the achievements of Honors College students, staff, and faculty, to report on Honors College events, and to provide a forum for students and faculty to share interesting experiences and opinions, all for the purpose of fostering a sense of community and celebrating diversity among the constituents of the Honors College.

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