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Honors College Mission:

The UIC Honors College enhances opportunities for intellectual challenge and leadership by fostering a community of academic excellence, connecting outstanding undergraduate students with premier faculty mentors, and promoting scholarly engagement. By bringing together a diverse group of exceptional undergraduate students, faculty, and staff, the Honors College provides an environment for advanced intellectual growth and a foundation for life-long learning.

Cover and layout design by Autumn Thomas; Cover photos by Timothy Nguyen, Roberta Dupuis-Devlin, and GradImages
As I end my seventh and final academic year as Dean, I am pleased to present my last Annual Report, detailing the 2014/2015 Honors College accomplishments. Throughout, you will see examples of how our 1,500 students and 375 Faculty Fellows are recognized locally and nationally for their academic excellence, teaching, research and creative work, and community service. Their accomplishments are made possible by the extraordinary staff and committed alumni, friends, and donors. The Honors College is at its strongest, in terms of its diverse and intellectually challenging curriculum, programs, and social and financial support for students.

There is no better proof of Honors College success than our students’ records: Their graduation rate percentage is in the mid-80s, much higher than the non-Honors campus average of 58%. Our research shows that this difference is not accounted for by the fact that Honors students enter with higher grades, test scores, etc. Instead, it is our College’s extra challenge, opportunity, and support that allow Honors students to be so successful. It is no wonder that over half of Honors freshmen say they would not have come to UIC had there been no Honors College.

Honors students are successful in spite of great financial challenges. UIC tuition, fees, and housing costs now top $25,000 per year. Generous donors have made it possible for many Honors students to obtain an education that would not otherwise have been possible. In fact, we just received the College’s largest-ever gift: $1,000,000 in scholarships from the CME Group Foundation for Honors students interested in finance. In addition, the Wood Family Foundation gave the College its second Scholar Award (four years of tuition, fees, and housing), and Honors Faculty Fellow Siva Sivananthan began providing $21,000 each year for two Sage Scholarships.

In the words of recent Honors graduate, Serene Abuzir, “I am so thankful for UIC’s Honors College! The staff, faculty, and fellow students truly became like a second family to me. Through the Honors College, I was able to grow and take advantage of all that UIC has to offer. I was exposed to a variety of opportunities and new experiences, and was subsequently able to venture out of my comfort zone and be the best that I can be.” Like Serene, I feel fortunate to be a part of the Honors College. It is a source of considerable strength for this university, a model for the success of all students. It is also a national leader in Honors education. It is poised for nothing but a continued upward trajectory.

I extend very warm thanks to all of you who have supported the Honors College, its students, its faculty, its staff, and me over the nearly seven years I have been Dean. You have made the Honors College what it is today, a supportive home that allows students to achieve their dreams of academic success.

Best wishes,

Bette L. Bottoms, Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Psychology
2014 | 2015 FACTS AND FIGURES

BY THE NUMBERS:

33  Honors Freshman Core Courses  375  Honors Faculty Fellows
32  Honors Seminars  1,582  Honors College Students
52  Honors Faculty Instructors  322  Honors College Graduates

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Racial/Ethnic Diversity

- Asian American: 33%
- White: 36%
- Hispanic: 17%
- African American: 8%
- Other: 6%

Degree-Granting Colleges

- LAS: 66%
- ENGR: 13%
- ED, CUPPA, PHARM, SPh: <1% each
- NURS: 2%
- CADA: 4%
- AHS: 5%
- CBA: 7%

Financial Need

- Not Pell Eligible: 61%
- Pell Eligible: 39%

*PELL-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE A LOW OR ZERO EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC) TO THE COST OF THEIR EDUCATION.

Honors Activities

- Capstone Project: 24%
- Internship or Study Abroad: 4%
- Other Honors Course: 6%
- Other Research: 12%
- Service: 12%
- Student Org. or Publication: 3%
- Honors Core or Seminar: 40%

The UIC Honors College student body is diverse in myriad ways, mirroring the global society in which students will work, live, and discover.
The Honors College is an important model of student success initiatives for UIC. Honors students had an average six-year graduation rate of 84% in 2014-15, compared to a non-Honors university average of 58%, an effect that is not accounted for by entering factors such as ACT score, high school GPA, high school percentile rank, number of entering AP credits, etc. (The six-year rate is the national benchmark; most Honors students graduate in four years.) This shows that the Honors College has a significant positive effect on students’ success regardless of their entering characteristics.

Honors students are also the strongest in the university by other academic measures.
The Honors College has long been a point of pride for UIC as well as a national leader, modeling innovative programming for peer institutions. The past year has brought regional and national recognition:

**HONORS EDUCATION AT RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES (HERU) 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE:**
Dean Bottoms served as a member of the planning committee for the second biennial HERU conference which was held May 18-19, 2015, at Oregon State University with 180 attendees from 70 universities. The UIC Honors College was a founding member of the steering committee that launched this HERU conference in May 2013 at Pennsylvania State University.

The deans of the UIC Honors College presented three papers at the conference: Dean Bottoms presented “Proving the Value of an Honors Education: New Models of Assessment Using Multivariate Techniques”, Associate Deans Sara Hall and Hui-Ching Chang presented “Curriculum Diversity: The UIC Model”, and Associate Dean Stacie Williams presented “Diversifying Honors from the First Year: The UIC President’s Award Program-Honors Scholarship.”

**HONORS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: PROCEEDINGS FROM HERU JOURNAL:**
With co-editor Dr. Nichola Gutgold from Pennsylvania State University, Dean Bottoms is founding co-editor of this new peer-reviewed research journal focused on Honors education. The first round of submissions was accepted in conjunction with the Honors Education at Research Universities (HERU) Conference in May 2015 and will be published in an online open-access format available at http://journals.psu.edu/heru/index.

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS INSPIRE INTEGRITY AWARD:**
Dean Bottoms was recognized by this national award as a faculty member who makes a significant impact and instills a high degree of personal and academic integrity. She was nominated by junior Sarah Lee.

**2015 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL (NCHC) CONFERENCE:**
The Honors College staff have had two presentation proposals accepted for the 2015 NCHC Conference in Chicago in November: Sara Mehta, Christina Ruiz, and Brian Ward will present “Diversifying the Honors College from the Freshman Class Up: President’s Award Program - Honors at UIC” and Stephanie O'Leary will present “Enhancing Students’ Career Development with Academic Advising.”

**HOST, 2014 CIC HONORS EDUCATION MEETING:**
In May 2014, the UIC Honors College hosted the biennial Committee on Institutional Cooperation (the “Big 10 plus” schools) Honors Education meeting, where more than 35 Honors deans, directors, and their executive staff met for two days to share best practices and consider future directions in Honors education. The meeting spurred the development of an inter-institutional assessment working group, which Dean Bottoms helped found.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWSHIPS ADVISORS:**
Beth Powers, Director of the Office of Special Scholarship Programs, co-presented “Too Much of a Not-Always-Good Thing? The Impact of High School Over-Reach on the College Experience and How NAFA Can Respond” at the 2015 Annual Conference in Oakland, CA.

**ILLINOIS ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION (ILACADA):**
Eliza Callahan, Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, has been a part of ILACADA’s leadership team since the organization’s founding in 2011, currently serving as Secretary.

**MIDWEST FIRST-YEAR CONFERENCE:**
Sarah Gardiner, Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, served on the planning committee and was a presenter at the 2014 Midwest First-Year Conference held at Waubonsee Community College in Sept. 2014.

**COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND INTERNSHIP ASSOCIATION:**
Stephanie O'Leary, Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, co-presented a session with the UIC Office of Career Services called “Enhancing the Internship Experience with Academic Advising” at the Annual Conference in March 2015.
Prestigious National and Campus Award Recipients

Honors College students are always among the strongest applicants for prestigious national scholarships and awards. With support from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP), led by Director Beth Powers, over 190 Honors College students have been awarded nationally competitive scholarships since 2000. Select 2014-15 Honors College recipients include:

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP: graduate school funding for students who demonstrate achievement in leadership, academics, and public service

- CRISTIAN NUNO: junior in economics and urban and public affairs

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP: for students pursuing research careers in math, science, or engineering

Recipient: TIANA WONG: junior in bioengineering

Honorable Mentions: ELISE DEBRUYN: junior in bioengineering

- NAVIKA SHUKLA: junior in biochemistry

RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM: summer enrichment program for students pursuing a career in international affairs

- USAMA IBRAHIM: sophomore in neuroscience and political science

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CRITICAL LANGUAGES SCHOLARSHIP: overseas summer intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences

- SONIA BAJAJ: senior in neuroscience; studying Punjabi in Chandigarh, India

- JINIT DESAI: senior in neuroscience and philosophy; studying Hindi in Jaipur, India

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP: for students who are underrepresented in education abroad

- TARIQ GHAZAWI: Jordan

- GRAYSON PAJKOS: South Korea

- SABAH MAHMOOD: The Czech Republic

- KASSANDRA RODRIGUEZ: Chile

- DOROTHY MANUEL: Japan

- ASHANTI TURNER: Spain

- BRITTANY METOYER: South Africa

FREEMAN ASIA AWARD: for students with demonstrated financial need to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia

- DOROTHY MANUEL: Japan

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: to support outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based Master’s and doctoral degrees

- JOHN LEVERSOS: B.A., Psychology and Sociology, 2014; currently pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Washington

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS INSPIRE INTEGRITY AWARD: for her essay nominating Dean Bottoms as a faculty member who makes a significant impact and instills a high degree of personal and academic integrity

- SARAH LEE: junior in biochemistry

LINCOLN LAUREATE AWARD: presented annually by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois to recognize one senior at each four-year institution within Illinois who embodies academic and extra-curricular excellence

- ALLYSON JOYCE: senior in nursing

DONALD AND LEAH RIDDLE PRIZE: annual award to one outstanding UIC senior for academics and leadership

- CODY LEE: senior in biochemistry and Spanish

The class of 2015: Where are they headed? A few examples...

**Employment:**

- Mackie Consultants, Civil Engineer
- Lutheran General Hospital, Physical Therapy Aide
- PricewaterhouseCoopers, Audit Associate
- Chicago Public Schools, Teacher
- Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Programming Analyst
- Peace Corps, Health Volunteer
- Studio Gang Architects, Design Team Member

**Graduate and Professional School:**

- University of Illinois at Chicago, D.P.T., Physical Therapy
- Northwestern University, M.D., Medicine
- Rice University, Master of Architecture
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pharm.D., Pharmacy
- John Marshall Law School, J.D., Law
- University of Notre Dame, Ph.D., Mathematics
- University of Oxford, M.Sc., Radiation Biology
- University of Miami, Ph.D., Clinical Health Psychology
- Harvard University, M.S., Computational Biology & Quantitative Genomics

**Typically, Two-thirds of Honors College Graduates Enter Graduate or Professional School Immediately, and Many of the Rest Have Jobs Waiting at Graduation.**
The Honors College’s priority on raising funds for student scholarships has brought in many gifts that support student awards and scholarships. It is particularly proud to announce the largest gift in its history: In Spring 2015, the CME Group Foundation gave the Honors College one million dollars over the next four years: $900,000 will support scholarships for students pursuing careers related to finance, especially low-income and first-generation college students from Chicago Public Schools. Another $100,000 will be used to provide emergency funds for Honors students of any major.

The Kerry and Sarah Wood Family Foundation established its second Wood Family Foundation Scholar beginning in 2015-16. Established by former star Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood and his wife Sarah in 2013, the scholarship is intended for an incoming first-year student with financial need and academic ability from one of the Chicago neighborhoods that the Wood Family Foundation serves — Austin, Englewood, Humboldt Park, or Lawndale. All tuition, fees, assessments, books, and room and board are provided and the ACCC provides a laptop. The 2015-16 recipient is Marla Stamps, an entering freshman majoring in Urban Education.

The Honors College also initiated two new scholarships to support students: Over $200,000 in Fresh Start Scholarships were offered to new incoming first-year students with unmet financial need in Fall 2014. Ten City College Honors Transfer Awards of $1,000 each will be given to incoming transfer students from City Colleges of Chicago for Fall 2015.

The SAGE Scholarship, funded by the generosity of Dr. Siva Sivananthan, recognizes incoming students who wish to major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, and are living in some of Chicago’s most challenged neighborhoods. The recipients, freshmen Andriy Suden and Peter Durosinmi, each received $10,500 scholarships to be used for Honors-designated on-campus housing, renewable annually for four years.

Finally, Kevin Desouza and his wife Sally have also funded a second endowed scholarship, called the Desouza Family Endowment Fund for Civic Leadership, to support students who go beyond the classroom and make a positive impact on the UIC community through service and leadership in student organizations.

The Honors College continued to provide the Dean’s Emergency Fund for students who have unique times of financial stress that can be relieved with relatively little money (usually $2,000 or less). The College gave approximately $60,000 in emergency funding last year to 49 students. Honors students have come to the Dean to ask for grants of as little as $62 to pay off their outstanding student account balance and to register for the next semester. Most requests are for larger amounts, but this kind of funding is crucial for Honors students who risk withdrawing from college due to unforeseen circumstances—from family home foreclosure to root canals—resulting in unpaid educational expenses.
The GPPA program allows first-year students to be admitted to UIC with guaranteed admission to one of several professional degree programs, provided they follow a specific curriculum and meet established performance criteria. All GPPA programs require or strongly recommend that participants are members of the Honors College, thus ensuring their education is enhanced by the Honors curriculum and supported by Honors Advisors, Faculty Fellows, and other Honors College resources. The GPPA Program Coordinator provides additional advising support for students and coordinates the recruitment and admissions processes.

For Fall 2014, approximately 7.5% of applicants to all GPPA programs were admitted, with a total of 93 first-year students enrolled in GPPA programs. Of these, 30 students enrolled in Medicine, 31 in Pharmacy, 2 in nursing, 6 in Engineering, 3 in Physical Therapy, 2 in Dentistry, 8 in Law, 6 in Accounting, and 1 in Occupational Therapy.

UIC also offers a new IIT-Chicago Kent Law School GPPA program, which was developed by Honors College Dean Bette Bottoms, Director of Special Scholarship Programs Beth Powers, and former Provost Lon Kaufman. The program recruited its first class of students in 2015 with four students joining the program after the freshman year. For Fall 2015, two students will be entering the Kent program as freshmen.

GPPA students are continuing to perform extremely well in their careers at UIC and beyond. This year, an unprecedented four graduating or former GPPA students are attending programs at the University of Oxford, UK. Wenji Guo is pursuing a PhD in Cancer Epidemiology, Donald Lei a MSc in Integrated Immunology, Jonathan Lee a MSc in Radiation Biology, and Kirthi Bellamkonda a MSc in Surgical Sciences.

ADMISSIONS INTERVIEW DAYS: The College is unique in conducting an in-person interview with nearly all well-qualified applicants — 960 interviews this year. Starting the process a month earlier this year allowed for more interviews than last year. These recruitment and interview days, involving faculty, staff, and alumni, are very effective yield events.

RECRUITMENT: To meet our goals of an increasingly diverse and high-achieving class of students, the College actively recruits students. Recruitment efforts included the Office of Academic and Enrollment Services Yield Events, the African American Recruitment and Enrollment Initiative, the 100 Black Men of Chicago College Scholarship Fair, the Salute to Academic Achievement event in Champaign-Urbana, and UIC Ignite Days. The Honors College also launched its first professionally produced informational and recruitment video in 2013-14.

GUARANTEED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM ADMISSIONS (GPPA)

Assistant Director of Admissions Brian Ward and Associate Dean Stacie Williams lead the Honors College in recruiting high-achieving students. This provides value to UIC by allowing it to compete with universities having more prestigious reputations for undergraduate education. In this third year of using the Common Application, the process yielded a higher percentage of completed applications. While there was a decrease of initiated applications by 57% (from a total of 1,958) from last year (4,565), completed qualified applications increased to 88% from 61% a year ago, for a total of 1,723 completed applications this year. The College has grown by 30% since 2008, with the freshman class growing from 335 to the target of 400 (maintaining an overall college size of 9% of the UIC undergraduate student body). The Honors College expects an increase in the number of African-American and Hispanic students enrolled this upcoming year as compared to last year.

Over half of Honors freshmen say they “would not have come to UIC had there been no Honors College.”
The President’s Award Program-Honors (PAP-H), a centerpiece of the College’s Diversity Strategic Plan (see p. 9), focuses on recruiting, admitting, and retaining highly qualified underrepresented and low-income students in the Honors College. This is a key strategy for improving student success and reducing the achievement gap campus-wide. Due in large part to PAP-H, the Honors College is more diverse than it has ever been.

**PAP-H PROGRAM COMPONENTS:**
PAP-H scholarships are offered to exemplary incoming first-year Honors College students from historically underrepresented groups, from low-sending Illinois counties, or from families who cannot contribute to students’ educational expenses. PAP-H covers full tuition, housing in the special Honors House living-learning community in James Stukel Towers, a two-week Summer College honors program, a special first-year program, and a new laptop provided by the UIC Academic Computing and Communications Center.

**A CONTINUED SUCCESS:** The PAP-H program continues to exceed expectations. Averaged across all three cohorts and years, the retention rate is 99.3% and the admissions yield rate is 73%. The 45 students in the Fall 2014 PAP-H cohort exhibit strong academic profiles, with a mean ACT score of 29.4 and high school GPA of 3.72. **At year’s end, 80% of the PAP-H Scholars had a first-year GPA of 3.0 or higher, and their retention rate to the second year was 99% compared to the campus average of 80%**. Four PAP-H students also received nationally-competitive scholarships and awards in 2014-15 (see p. 5): Cristian Nuno (Truman Scholar), Tiana Wong (Goldwater Scholar), Usama Ibrahim (Rangel Program), and Kassandra Rodriguez (Gilman Scholarship). Associate Deans Sara Hall and Stacie Williams have led efforts to disseminate information about PAP-H nationally through conference presentations at the CIC Honors Education Meeting (May 2014) and the Honors Education at Research Universities Conference (May 2013, May 2015). See p. 4 for more information.

**PAP-H PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATE**
Javier Suarez is the first graduate of the inaugural 2012 PAP-H cohort, graduating in May 2015 with a B.S. in Neuroscience. At UIC, he was a member of the Hispanic Center for Excellence’s Medicina Scholars program, a leader in the Society for Future Physicians, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and a volunteer serving as a Spanish interpreter at a free Community Health clinic. He received the Hodgkin-Huxley Award in Neuroscience for his excellence in research, under the supervision of Honors Faculty Fellow Dr. Jamie Roitman in the Psychology department. Javier received a merit-based scholarship to attend Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine next year.
The UIC Honors College, one of the most diverse in the nation, ends the fourth year of its Diversity Strategic Plan implementation with a comprehensive action summary and recommendations, available online at http://www.uic.edu/honors/about/documents/HC_Diversity_Strategic_Planning_Jun-2015.pdf. The multifaceted plan, developed by a committee of Faculty Fellows, staff, and students, embraces a broad conception of diversity including social identities as well as majors, colleges, course offerings, etc. It is a top priority for the Honors College to remain at the forefront of diversity efforts, and the following is a sampling of the College’s diversity initiatives.

### Climate
- The Honors Council approved a permanent Honors College Diversity Committee to advance the goals of the Diversity Strategic Plan.
- The student Honors College Advisory Board re-structured its by-laws to ensure representation by students from across the disciplines.
- The Honors College staff has hosted relationship-building events with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change and academic advisors from units and colleges across campus.
- Nearly 50% of Honors College staff members are of minority ethnicities or races.
- Efforts have been made to recruit Faculty from underrepresented disciplines and ethnicities, with the percentage of underrepresented faculty in the Honors College surpassing representation within the total UIC faculty.

### Student Recruitment and Retention
- The PAP-H program continues to surpass expectations at the end of its third year. The Fall 2014 cohort of PAP-H students had an admissions yield rate of 64% and a retention rate to the second year of 99%. (See p. 8 for details.)
- A diverse group of Honors Ambassadors have been selected to aid with new student recruitment.
- The College has begun a wide variety of more “supportively intrusive” methods of tracking all of its students, including underrepresented minorities, at the first signs of trouble. This includes attention to early alerts from faculty (midterm grades) and from residence halls (results from MAP-Works program survey), increased outreach from assigned College advisors, early assignment of Faculty Fellows to PAP-Honors students, and increased efforts to coordinate support for students with other campus programs.

### Teaching and Learning
- “Instructors Round Table: Diversity Matters”: Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang developed and now offers this teaching workshop every semester for Honors instructors.
- Under Associate Dean Chang’s leadership, the Honors curriculum is more diverse than ever, including:
  - An Introduction to Faculty Research on Diversity
  - Educational Equality and School Reform: From No Child Left Behind to Intelligent Design
  - From Hip Hop to Horror: The Sexual and Racial Politics of American Popular Media
  - Men and Women on the Big Screen: Hollywood and Gender
  - The Politics of Public Space
  - The Rwandan Genocide Reinterpreted and Revised in its Historical and Global Context
  - The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Study
  - HON 101: Freshman Seminar was revised to incorporate more focus on diversity.

### Visibility
- The College has strengthened communications to educate the UIC campus about the Honors College mission and to ensure that access to excellence through inclusion and diversity will be evident in all communication materials.
- Honors College staff and students are actively involved in campus committees and events, such as the Chancellor’s diversity committees.
- The College organized several faculty-led events to discuss topics of diversity and social justice, including two film screenings about the history of slavery and a panel discussion with veterans of the civil rights movement. See p. 17 and p. 14, respectively, for more information.
- The College co-sponsors many events with the six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change, supported with $6,000 each year. Co-sponsored programs included the UIC Heritage Garden, the Re-Imagining Masculinity Initiative, Lavender Graduation, and the Chicago Families Exhibit and programs.

### RESEARCH SHOWS SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF HONORS COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS
The Honors College as a whole is a particularly effective program for supporting underrepresented students. In 2014, Honors College senior Dulce Diaz, under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Farruggia, completed an Honors Capstone research project finding that membership in the Honors College has a positive effect for all students over and above other entering factors such as financial background and ACT scores, especially for underrepresented minority students.
Because the first year is essential for student success and retention, Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist Sarah Gardiner leads the Honors College academic advising staff in supporting students as they become connected to campus and to fellow students, explore academic and career interests, and learn about campus resources.

**ORIENTATION:** All first-year Honors College students attended a customized Orientation program, with sessions on Honors College requirements and courses, personalized advising for class registration, and community-building. The Honors College also hosts Orientation workshops for Transfer and Continuing students prior to the start of the semester.

**HONORS AMBASSADORS:** Each new Honors student has a dedicated “Honors Ambassador” as a peer mentor. In 2014-15, 45 Honors Ambassadors were each assigned 8 to 10 new first-year and transfer students. Ambassadors contact students prior to Orientation, meet them in person at Orientation, and continue biweekly communication and monthly events to keep first-year students engaged and connected.

**WELCOME EVENTS:** The Honors College hosts a variety of events to welcome new Honors students, including the Picnic for First-Year Students, the Dean’s New Student Reception, and the New Transfer and Continuing Student Pizza Parties with Ambassadors.

**FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (HON 101):** If not already required by the line college, Honors College students enroll in a one-hour Honors Seminar taught by Honors College Postdoctoral faculty and academic advisors during their first semester to support their transition to college.

**FRESHMAN ADVISING:** Honors College freshmen must meet once per semester with an assigned Honors Advisor who generally also teaches students’ weekly first-year seminar. They discuss classes, majors, co-curricular involvement, and general issues regarding adjustment to college. They are encouraged to meet more often, as they like. Mid-term grades are also monitored for first-year students, with advisors providing support as needed.

92% of Honors College first-year students returned to UIC for their second year in 2014, compared with the campus average of 80%.
HONORS COLLEGE COURSES: The Honors College offers a vibrant curriculum taught by instructors from diverse disciplines, enabling learning from multiple and interdisciplinary perspectives, as one would find at the best small private colleges in the nation. The curriculum is based on the integration of theory and practice, cultivation of students' civic-mindedness and leadership, and development of a respect for and understanding of diversity. The offerings take the form of small courses that encourage students to explore a new area of interest or to delve more deeply into their field of study. These classes are unique by definition, as they are courses that would not be taught in any other program. Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang and Dean Bottoms, with support from Honors Advisor Eliza Callahan, have led the development of this distinctive curriculum by actively soliciting course offerings from outstanding UIC professors.

HONORS COLLEGE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: First-year Honors College students take two interdisciplinary Honors Core courses and a First-Year Seminar course. In the second and third year, students participate in an Honors Activity each semester such as undergraduate research, an Honors Seminar or other course, community service, internship, or study abroad. As seniors, they complete an Honors Capstone project.

HONORS SEMINARS: Honors Seminars are 1-credit, 200-level courses that offer unique or interdisciplinary perspectives, often connecting theory with real-world experience and practice. Sample Honors Seminars include:

Think Global, Act Local:
- Global Health Service Learning Program
  Dr. Stacey Chamberlain, UIC Center for Global Health

Traditional Bowhunting:
- History, Engineering, and Ethics
  Dr. John Hetling, Bioengineering

A Decade of Pharmacy Experience:
- From Pharmacy Student to Pharmacist in the Workforce
  Dr. Juliana Chan, Pharmacy

Violence in America: The Healthcare Response
- Dr. Barbara Simmons, Nursing

Legal Writing and Advocacy
- Arunas Buntinas, Cook County State's Attorney's Office

HONORS CORE COURSES: Honors Core Courses are 3-credit, 100-level interdisciplinary courses that fulfill General Education requirements for first-year students. Sample Honors Core Courses include:

Men, Women, and the Changing Family
- Dr. Marsha Cassidy, English

Race, Racism, Power, and Education in the US
- Dr. Vernon Lindsay, Honors College Postdoctoral Fellow in Teaching and Mentoring

Mathematics Through Time
- Dr. Evangelos Kobotis, Mathematics

Environmental Sustainability and Policy
- Dr. Thomas Theis, Civil and Materials Engineering

Love Songs
- Dr. Anna Grau Schmidt, Music

The Art of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael: Invenzione, Terribilità e Grazia
- Dr. Robert Munman, Art History

Chicago: An Urban Geography
- Dr. David Solzman

Readings in the Atlantic Slave Trade
- Dr. Nancy Cirillo, English
At least 36% of Honors students conduct research each year, and all do before they graduate. Financial support of student research is a priority of the College. The College supported the research of 92 students, listed below, with close to $50,000 in funding in 2014-15. To expand Honors students’ research opportunities as well as support their career development, the College has steadily increased the number of Faculty Fellows who are research-practitioners from the health-related non-undergraduate colleges (e.g., Medicine, Dentistry), populating formerly graduate-student domains with undergraduates and stocking the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) pipelines.

DEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS:
The College partners with many departments across campus to provide undergraduate research opportunities for Honors students. For example, Dr. Jose Oberholzer of the College of Medicine received a $500,000 NIH grant to provide undergraduate research experiences for Honors College students. See p. 14 for more information. The Honors College has supported several other similar grant submissions as well. In addition, the National Science Foundation-funded laboratories in the Department of Biological Sciences offer structured research opportunities for Honors students for 3-5 semesters. These experiences often culminate in Honors Capstone Projects that are presented at a mini-symposium at the Honors College. Five Honors students completed Capstone projects through this partnership in 2014-15.

Kashif Osmani (left) has received the David Bruce Abstract Award, the David Bruce Poster Presentation Award, and the 2015-16 Undergraduate Research Excellence Fellowship from the American Physiological Society for his research conducted under the guidance of Dr. Mrinalini Rao (right).
The Honors Senior Capstone project is an independent, in-depth examination of a topic guided by a research supervisor, culminating in a written thesis and public presentation. 286 Honors College seniors, or 92% of the Senior class, completed Honors Capstone projects in 2014-15. The strength of these projects is visible in students' ability to win internal and external grants and awards for their projects, to present their work at national and international conferences, and even to publish.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS: To help prepare students for the Capstone project, Associate Deans Hui-Ching Chang and Sara Hall led 18 workshops in 2014-15 which were open to any undergraduate student. Workshop topics included general information about Capstones, group brainstorming for capstone ideas, skill-building sessions to develop strong abstracts and presentations, and workshops co-sponsored by the Office of Special Scholarship Programs and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Beginning in Fall 2015, the required HON 301 seminar will also help prepare students for the Capstone (see p. 11). Capstone Advising is provided by Deans Hall and Chang and Postdoctoral Fellows Vernon Lindsay and Aleksei Zarnitsyn, and additional support is provided by Honors Advisor Eliza Callahan. Extensive resources are also available in the Honors College Handbook and on the Honors College website: www.uic.edu/honors/learning/capstone.shtml.

CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS: Over 80% of the undergraduate student presenters at the 2015 UIC Student Research Forum were Honors College students, as were 8 of the 10 undergraduate award winners. Honors College students also presented at the inaugural Summer Research and Career Development Symposium in July 2014, the Honors College Fall Research Symposium in November 2014, college-based fora in Nursing, Engineering, and other colleges, and at national conferences.

Select 2014-15 Capstone Projects

“An Unavoidable Alarm Clock”
Abdul Aziz Yakubu, Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Dr. Ning Jin

“Analogies between the Rings of Integers and Polynomials on a Finite Field”
Arun Jayaraman, Mathematics
Advisor: Dr. Alina Cojocaru

“Costa Rica, a Macroeconomic Perspective”
Alan Reifer Rudelman, Finance and Economics
Advisors: Drs. Evelyn Lehrer & Georgios Karras

“The Effects of Music on Student Stress and Anxiety”
Evelyn Robak-Navarro, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Laura Pawuk

“Genomic Mutation Analysis of High Nitric Oxide-Adapted Human Cancer Cells Compared to Parent Cells”
Crystal Luna, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Dr. James Radosevich

“The Influence of Vacuum-Assisted Suspension on the Energetic Cost of Walking in Lower Limb Amputees”
Tess Ehrhardt, Kinesiology
Advisor: Dr. Noah Rosenblatt

“Legal Brief and Argument for the Cook County Circuit Court of Appeals”
Mirjana Abu-Khalil, Psychology, Criminology, Law, and Justice
Advisor: Eric Leafblad

“Poetry in Being”
Emily Litten, Industrial Design
Advisor: Erica Michie

Jonathan Nazari presents his Capstone project “Pain Characteristics in a Humanized Mouse Model of Sickle Cell Disease” at the UIC Student Research Forum.
A UNIQUE SPACE FOR FACULTY: For faculty members, the Honors College serves as a “third place”—what social theorist Ray Oldenberg refers to as a public venue (like a coffee house) that provides a social anchor between one’s usual spaces, encouraging innovation and conversation, leveling differences, and fostering civility, democracy, and engagement. All of these characterize the Honors College. Faculty-student luncheons, college committee meetings, teaching workshops, lectures, and events with students on both the East and West sides of campus provide faculty with occasions for conversation about common interests and concerns as well as discovery of interdisciplinary intersections. The Honors College is the only UIC college in which faculty and students from all disciplines regularly comingle intellectually and socially, building relationships and collaborating in ways that make the most of UIC’s broad-based diversity. Many UIC faculty derive great satisfaction from their home in the Honors College — their “third place” — making them feel more connected and engaged with UIC.

UIC faculty benefit from the Honors College as a laboratory for best practices in undergraduate education, especially those from colleges that do not offer traditional undergraduate teaching. The College engages and rewards quality teaching and supports faculty development in research and service, through avenues such as the Faculty Fellow of the Year Award, Capstone Supervisor of the Year Award, and research money for faculty and students to use to support student research.

HONORS FELLOW NATASHA BARNES LEADS VETERANS OF FREEDOM SUMMER ‘64 CONVERSATION

“Freedom Summer” of 1964 was one of the most important interracial grass-roots movements for civil rights and social change. Freedom Summer registered thousands of black voters, organized youth-led legal and medical teams, and launched “Freedom Schools” to teach about Black history and activism. Led by Honors Faculty Fellow Natasha Barnes, the Honors College sponsored a panel discussion with five veterans of this movement who spoke about their experiences in the Freedom Summer movement and led a discussion about how young people can be agents of change. The event was attended by over 230 students, faculty, staff, and community members.

$500,000 NIH GRANT AWARDED FOR UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM IN DIABETES RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

Dr. Jose Oberholzer, Honors Faculty Fellow, Professor of Surgery, and Chief of the Division of Transplantation, received a $500,000 five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health entitled “Training Interdisciplinary Scientists for Functional Cure of Diabetes.” The grant will establish a new undergraduate summer training program between the UIC Honors College and the UIC College of Medicine with support from the Department of Bioengineering. The first of its kind at UIC, this training program will help prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers in the field of diabetes research and treatment. The program will include a paid 10-week summer internship for 12 undergraduate Honors College and/or Bioengineering students who are from historically underrepresented groups in the field. Prior to receiving the grant, Dr. Oberholzer has also engaged Honors students with the field of diabetes research through his involvement with the HON 201 seminar “Current Perspectives in Diabetes and Treatments.”
Faculty are engaged with the Honors College in myriad ways—not only as instructors or Faculty Fellows, but also through interactions with Honors students in the classroom and laboratory, and by coming to Burnham Hall for any number of activities with other faculty and students.

**HONORS COLLEGE CORE AND SEMINAR INSTRUCTORS:**
Under the direction of Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang, during 2014-15, 52 faculty members from across campus taught 65 Honors Core Courses and Seminars.

**FACULTY FELLOWS:**
Approximately 375 faculty members, from all of UIC’s 14 degree-granting colleges and approximately 90 departments, served as Faculty Fellows during 2014-15, providing mentorship for students in their fields.

**INSTRUCTOR ROUND TABLES:**
Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang leads the biannual Instructor Round Tables, which provide an opportunity for faculty to share challenges and best practices related to achieving the goals of general education, capitalizing on diversity as a pedagogical resource, and ensuring interdisciplinarity in instruction.

**ADMISSIONS INTERVIEWS AND SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:**
Nearly 100 faculty members were actively involved in selecting the incoming Honors class by interviewing prospective students and by reviewing applications for transfer and continuing UIC students seeking to join the College. Faculty also serve on committees to select scholarship recipients.

**WEST CAMPUS RELATIONS:**
Led by Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang, the West Campus Relations Committee works to encourage more West Campus researchers/clinicians to provide shadowing opportunities for students and to offer Honors seminars and supervise Honors research. An annual luncheon is held each year to build relationships.

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**HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY FELLOW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**
The Honors College Dean initiated a new small grants program that provides Faculty Fellows with up to $5,000, supporting faculty research while also creating interesting new research and other creative scholarship opportunities for Honors College students. Its first recipients are:

- **Kelly Bair** (Architecture), *Ancient Nouveau: Innovating Low-Tech Construction Methods in the Digital Age*
- **Randal Dull** (Anesthesiology), *Characterizing the Endothelial Mechanosome*
- **Jeremy Lynch** (Biological Sciences), *A Novel Embryonic Lethal Screening Strategy for the Haplo-diploid Wasp Nasonia*
- **Joel Palka** (Anthropology, and Latin American & Latino Studies), *Sciences and Humanities in Anthropology: Clay Sourcing and Iconographic Interpretation of Twin Maya Urns*
- **Crystal Patil** (Women, Children, & Family Health Sciences), *A Community-Centered Approach: Identifying Refugee Men’s Health Priorities in Chicago*
- **Rachel Poretsky** (Biological Sciences), *Exploring the Microbial Diversity in the Chicago River: Temporal Dynamics and Impacts of Wastewater*
- **Gary Raney** (Psychology), *My Life is a Pencil: Metaphors, Language, and Thought*
- **Katherine Zinsser** (Psychology), *Developing a Measure of Social-emotional Teaching in Preschool Classrooms*

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**DR. ROBIN MERMELSTEIN RECEIVES 2014 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**
Dr. Robin Mermelstein—an Honors Faculty Fellow, Professor of Psychology, and Director of the Institute for Health Research and Policy—was selected as the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women’s 2014 Woman of the Year. Dr. Mermelstein has dedicated her research career to women’s health, focusing primarily on tobacco use. Her studies range from longitudinal examinations of the etiology of youth smoking to cessation interventions for adult smokers. Under Dr. Mermelstein’s leadership, the Institute for Health Research and Policy is the largest research institute of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Mermelstein spoke at the CIC Honors Deans and Directors Meeting in May 2014 about the dynamic public health partnerships UIC has across the city of Chicago and the learning opportunities that this creates for undergraduate Honors students.
HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY AWARDS

2014-15 HONORS COLLEGE CAPSTONE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR
PAULINE MAKI
Professor
Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, UIC College of Medicine and College of LAS

“Dr. Maki has inspired me to continue to do research throughout medical school, and her lessons will help me throughout my career.”
Kiran Malhotra, UIC Honors College Class of 2015

2014-15 HONORS COLLEGE FELLOW FACULTY OF THE YEAR
ALAN SCHWARTZ
Professor
Department of Medical Education
Research Professor, Department of Pediatrics
UIC College of Medicine

“Dr. Schwartz challenged me to deepen my understanding... as well as find my passion...”
Michelle Vu, UIC Honors College Class of 2015
2015 RIDDLE PRIZE RECIPIENT: CODY LEE

Cody Lee completed a dual-degree in biochemistry and Spanish in 3 ½ years, while also competing on the UIC cross country and track teams and serving as captain of the former. Lee will attend the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine next fall with the goal of being a physician for a professional sports team. His career choice of orthopedic medicine was solidified after receiving his own treatment of a sports injury his sophomore year of college. In addition to the Riddle Prize, Lee also received the UIC Male Academic Student-Athlete of the Year Award, the Dr. Thomas Beckham Memorial Scholarship for student-athletes, and the In/Between Conference Excellence in Research Award.

In addition to Honors-only courses, research, and Capstone projects, other high-impact, engaging practices offered and/or supported by the Honors College include civic engagement, internships, writing and editorial experiences in student publications, leadership and professional development opportunities, and study abroad. Honors funding for such activities reached $35,000 last year, an amount the College plans to sustain or increase next year.

HONORS HOUSE RESIDENCE HALL PROGRAMMING:
The College’s partnership with UIC Residence Life has never been stronger. About half of Honors first-year students and a third of all Honors Students (553 students) live in campus residence halls, with over 325 (including all PAP-H scholars) living in one of two Honors-only living communities where Honors and residence Life staff work collaboratively in programming. Highlights include:

- Faculty-in-Residence Programming: Associate Dean Chang has been the Faculty-in-Residence in the Honors House since Fall 2012, providing students with informal guidance and support, academic and otherwise. She introduced the highly popular “Cutie’s [the Honors College Cat] Weekly Office Hours” two years ago, inviting students to come to her apartment in JST to play with her cats, have tea, chat with her, and often meet with other faculty and staff members from UIC and beyond. Fifteen different faculty members as well as alumni and staff participated this year. She also expanded the programming in the residence halls by offering workshops.

- Honors Advisor and Honors Ambassadors Programming: Advisors and Ambassadors hosted two events in Housing connecting with students and sharing information about Honors courses and Activity options: “Guac ‘N Talk” and “Spring Forward to Fall.”

COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

- Freshman Convocation
- HCAB Faculty-Student Luncheons
- Honors College Ball
- Honors College Convocation
- Honors College Community Lectures

2014 LINCOLN LAUREATE: ALLYSON JOYCE

Even as a fifth grader, Allyson Joyce knew that she wanted to be a nurse. As the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate, Joyce was selected as UIC’s most outstanding senior based on academic and extracurricular achievements. At UIC, Joyce served as President of the Student Nurses Association, President of Alternative Spring Break, senior representative of the Health Professions Student Council, committee chair of the Student Fee Advisory Committee, a mentor for the Ignite Leadership Experience, and a founder of Street Views of Chicago and the Save Spencer Foundation. Having received her BSN in Nursing, Joyce will work as a nurse in the Rush University Emergency Room next year and ultimately plans to complete graduate school to be an acute care pediatric nurse practitioner.
CHICAGO SIGNATURE HONORS PROGRAMMING: Led by the Honors Postdoctoral Fellows in Teaching and Mentoring, Drs. Aleks Zarnitsyn and Vernon Lindsay, this extracurricular initiative engages students with the cultural and intellectual diversity of Chicago. The program engages students intellectually, culturally, and artistically, while also providing students with mentoring outside the traditional classroom and office setting. In 2014-15, over 150 students experienced the Lyric Opera, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Second City, the Cadillac Palace Theatre, United Capoeira Association workshops, and more. Students often are able to speak with players, directors and artists — all at no cost to the students.

LECTURE SERIES: The Honors College has long been home to or co-sponsors of initiatives aimed at developing student leadership, including the Honors Leadership Lecture Series and the Department of Political Science’s Future of Chicago Lecture Series. Associate Dean Sara Hall arranges opportunities for Honors college students to engage in follow-up discussion over lunch with speakers such as Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES

- “How to Avoid Mediocrity”
  - Steve Giere, Investment Advisor and Equity Portfolio Manager, Promus Capital, LLC

- Marca K. Festen & Esther Grimm, Chair and Executive Director, 3 Arts

- “From FedEx to Philanthropy: An Investment Banker’s Journey”
  - Charles Ashby Lewis, Chairman, Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation and Coach House Capital; Retired Vice Chairman, Investment Banking, Merrill Lynch & Co.

THE FUTURE OF CHICAGO LECTURE SERIES

- “Reform of Cook County Government”
  - Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President

- “The Future of Chicago Public Schools”
  - Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Former CEO, Chicago Public Schools

- “The War on Millennials”
  - Pete Seat, Syndicated Columnist and former Deputy Assistant Press Secretary to President George W. Bush

- “The Future of the State of Illinois”
  - Jim Edgar, 38th Governor of Illinois

- “Homelessness in Chicago”
  - Hannah Willage, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
The Honors College sponsors numerous student organizations that promote campus and community engagement and leadership:

- Alternative Spring Break
- *The Ampersand*
- *The Asterisk*
- Donate by Design
- EcoCampus
- Honors Ambassadors
- Honors College Advisory Board
- *Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Journal*
- *Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students*
- Peer Health Exchange
- Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society
- Pre-Law Society at UIC
- Project Esteem
- *The Red Shoes Review*
- Society of Future Physicians
- TEDx
- UIC Mock Trial Team
- UIC OneWorld

**HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD (HCAB):** HCAB is the official Honors College student activities organization advised by Sarah Gardiner that hosts events each year, including the HCAB Faculty/Student Luncheons each semester and the Annual Honors College Ball, which in Spring 2015 had over 350 attendees and raised over $10,000 for student scholarships. HCAB also offers an annual scholarship.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:** The Dean’s Student Leadership Council includes representatives from each Honors College student organization and meets monthly with the Dean to exchange ideas and learn about leadership.

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS:** The Honors College sponsors six student-run journals for Honors College students to publish their writing, including a newsletter, a satirical newsletter, a scholarly journal for pre-health affiliated students, a literary and arts magazine, an interdisciplinary undergraduate research journal, and a global affairs magazine. Spring 2015 marked the release of the first issue of the UIC Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Journal, the peer-reviewed open-access undergraduate research journal which was initiated in 2013-14 as a partnership between the UIC Library, the Honors College, and the Office of Undergraduate Research. View it online at http://iurj.honors.uic.edu. All publications are advised by a Faculty Advisor and supported by Associate Dean Sara Hall, Honors Advisor Sara Mehta, and Graduate Assistant Leigh Hellman.

**NBC HOMEWORK HOTLINE TUTORS:** This service, sponsored by NBC 5 and Telemundo, provides homework help in all subjects by phone to Chicago-area youth and has been staffed solely by UIC Honors student volunteers for 17 years. An ad, which can be viewed at http://vimeo.com/61577192, airs on the two channels and highlights the contributions of Honors College students.
In Fall 2014, the Honors College launched the first Fall Professional Development Series, a set of workshops, lectures, and panels that help students plan for their first steps beyond graduation. Organized by Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist Stephanie O’Leary, the 2014 series included eight different sessions, listed below, and featured partners from UIC faculty and staff, alumni, and community professionals. Student feedback was highly positive, with comments such as “Excellent, now I have an insight into the mind of an interviewer” and “This panel provided honest answers and made me rethink a lot of my decisions.” The Honors College will continue the Fall Professional Development Series in 2015.

A panel discussion about the law school application process. From left: Adekemi Faleti-Dosunmu, Esq., LAS Pre-Law Advisor; Evan McKenzie, J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Political Science; Eric Leafblad, J.D., Assistant State’s Attorney, Cook County, Honors College Alumni Association President; Sony Cortes, UIC Alumnus and current law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

### 2014 FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

- Career Preparation Workshop for Juniors
- Observe a Mock Medical School Interview
- Applying to Graduate School in the Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences
- Preparing to Apply to Law School
- Making the Most of a Gap Year
- Internship Essentials for Career Development: Conducting the Most Effective Search
- Aging, American Style: Why We Need More Persons in Aging Research
- Scholarships and You: Funding Your Graduate Education and Your Future

### INTERNSHIPS

The Honors College has continued to expand its connections with Chicago businesses and organizations to create internship opportunities for Honors College students such as these:

- Rush University Medical Center
- Center for Healthcare Innovation / Clinical Research Exchange
- Civic Consulting Alliance
- Metropolitan Farms
- EnterpriseWorks Chicago
- Entrepreneurs’ Organization, Chicago Chapter

Honors College students also pursue internships that they find through other means outside of the College, including the Office of Career Services, pre-professional student organizations, and general networking.

### WHAT STUDENTS SAY ABOUT INTERNSHIPS...

Responses to the inaugural 2015 Honors Internship Survey were insightful:

- “I hoped to learn public programming skills and how to work with bringing a community together over an ongoing issue. The internship exceeded my expectations and I made valuable connections with a multitude of individuals.”
- “I hoped to get a hands-on experience with the criminal justice system and understand the role of courts. I also wanted to interact with lawyers on a regular basis to learn what their jobs comprise. The experience definitely met my expectations, and I decided to go to law school because of this internship.”
- “The teachers here did not sugar-coat their profession and that really helped me to get a very real, very personal understanding of what it’s like to be a teacher.”
- “I hoped to gain some hands-on experience in engineering. Instead, I did research and development, which I learned was not my thing. Sounds unfortunate, but I value the experience for teaching me about my interests.”
- “[The internship was] a great opportunity to enhance [my] fundraising skills applicable in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, while contributing to meaningful social change!”
Many alumni take advantage of opportunities to engage with the UIC Honors College. Coordinated by the Director of Advancement, Honors College alumni mentor current undergraduates, interview prospective students, give students "shadowing" opportunities, provide internships, join the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA), and give to scholarship funds.

HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (HCAA):
HCAA is led by an executive board which includes President Eric Leafblad, Vice President Fred Nickl, and Secretary Rita Johnson. In addition, the HCAA Scholarship Fund continues to benefit Honors students with financial need. The 2015 recipient of this scholarship is Barbara Kennedy.

ALUMNI MENTORING:
Several UIC alumni who are attorneys supervise Honors students’ senior Capstone projects. Last year, students performed research for attorneys at private law firms, and assisted in the writing and filing of legal briefs for the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. 1991 alumnus Eric Leafblad and 1988 alumnus Arunas Buntinas supervised Capstones last year, as they do regularly. Their stellar mentorship helps Honors students obtain training and careers in law.

ALUMNI AND DONOR SOLICITATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
The Honors College keeps alumni and friends updated about student accomplishments and happenings in the College through quarterly E-newsletters, a LinkedIn Group with nearly 350 members, and Honorable Mentions, the College’s annual print newsletter.

JOSEPHINE ANN VOLPE
1998 B.A., Art History
(College of Architecture & the Arts, the Honors College)
2011 M.Ed., Instructional Leadership
(College of Education)

KEVIN C. DESOUZA
2000 B.S., Accounting
(College of Business Administration, Honors College)
2006 Ph.D., Management Information Systems
(College of Business Administration)

Joey has served on the UIC Campus Alumni Advisory Board (CAAB) for seven years and was chair of the Campus Activities Subcommittee for two years. While a member of the Alumni Relations Council, she helped to develop the WOW, INSPIRE, and Luminary Award programs to recognize faculty, staff, and students for their excellence in service. Her loyalty to the UIAA programs and her alma mater know no bounds; there is virtually no committee at UIC on which she has not served and her work has garnered her much recognition, including the UIC Award of Merit and the CAPE Award.

Kevin is a model alumnus, supporting his alma mater with his time, talent, and treasure. He has returned to the College of Business Administration numerous times as a guest lecturer and is a member of its Alumni Leadership Academy. Kevin participates in many Honors College programs and he and his wife, Sally, have established two endowed scholarships for Honors College students, the Sally & Kevin Desouza Family Scholarship and the Desouza Family Endowment Fund for Civic Leadership.
The Honors College offers a variety of scholarships and financial awards to support current Honors College students. Congratulations to the 2014-15 recipients!

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INCOMING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS:**

**CPS SCIENCE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP:**
- Najah Ahsan, freshman in bioengineering
- Zahra Ahsan, freshman in bioengineering

**HONORS COLLEGE ACADEMIC DISTINCTION AWARD:**
- Danmei Huang, freshman in statistics and biological sciences

**DOWD SCHOLARSHIP:**
- Hanna Hixson, freshman in psychology

**HONORS COLLEGE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:**
- Emily Nepomuceno, freshman in biological sciences
- Hamed Shafiuddin, freshman in biochemistry

**GPPA EXCELLENCE AWARD:**
- Sophia Bidny, freshman in chemistry

**KERR SCHOLARSHIP:**
- Jenson Phung, freshman in chemistry

**HONORS SCHOLARS AWARD:**
- Gaurav Agnihotri, freshman in biochemistry
- Crissel Arban, freshman in biological sciences
- Laura Erickson, freshman in anthropology
- Michelle Hawksworth, freshman in physics
- Erin Nielsen, freshman in economics
- Deborah Park, freshman in biological sciences
- Milan Patel, freshman in chemistry
- Nikita Pillai, freshman in biological sciences
- Morgan Pirtle, freshman in jazz studies
- Sophia Plucher, freshman in psychology
- Lauren Roby, freshman in biological sciences

**PRESIDENT’S AWARD PROGRAM – HONORS SCHOLARS:**

- Abraham Abraham
- Eduardo Aceves
- Aaquilah Ali
- Nicole Balinski
- Diana Beltran
- Elena Carrillo
- Roberto Castillo
- Joshua Deanes
- George Duncan
- Osayuwamen
- Edomwande
- Naomi Faulk
- Enrique Galarza
- Elizabeth Guevarghese
- David Gonzalez
- Rachel Gonzalez
- Alegria Gutierrez
- Sydney Hardeman
- Erykah Harris
- Noora Hassaballa
- Abbie Hudnell
- Vanessa Jerger
- Ashley Johnson
- Christopher Kooy
- Kathleen Mancillas
- Lydia Martinez
- Mia Menchaca
- Siobhan Midgley
- Chioma Ndukwe
- Amanda Nuno
- Feliciano Ocegueda
- Letoria Overton
- Aldeb Perera
- Veronica Ramirez
- Mariel Rancel
- Karina Reyes
- Mariana Reyes
- James Richardson
- Casandra Robledo
- Juan Rojas
- Debra Sodimu
- Alexander Tate
- Aisha Torres
- D’Andre Walker
- Lynn Weishaupt
- Salmaan Zafer

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS:**

**PHI THETA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP:**
- Saul Alarcon, junior in statistics and operations research
- Brenda Salcedo, junior in accounting
- Vikki Jones, junior in psychology
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS:

CEO SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN IN ENGINEERING:
Tooba Ghafoor, senior in bioengineering

DARRELL CRONAN SCHOLARSHIP:
Dae Kim, junior in biochemistry

HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD SCHOLARSHIP:
Kimberly Hu, senior in biological sciences and mathematics
Kiran Malhotra, senior in biological sciences and psychology

PHI ETA SIGMA SCHOLARSHIP:
Carlos Montero, junior in biological sciences

SISTER DOROTHY DROBIS AWARD:
Jesus Vallejo, junior in the teaching of history

HONORS COUNCIL AWARD:
Danya Ata, junior in the teaching of English
Neha Chandan, senior in biological sciences
Alvin George, senior in biochemistry
Claire Gorman, senior in French and Francophone studies
Brian Geiger, junior in political science and criminology, law, and justice

DEAN’S AND FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD:

Spring 2015:
Alma Blancarte, Italy
Tahaylia Higgins, Spain
Alexandra Kupershmidt, Spain
Eric Michelson, Spain

Summer 2015:
Nicole Balinski, Spain
Kara Easlick, Chile
Szymon Gluc, Denmark
Jordan Goodrich, the Dominican Republic
John Guistat, Italy
Bridget Hansen, Jordan
Ogechi Ike, Italy

Fall 2015:
Bridget Hansen, ordan
Sachin Patel, The Netherlands
Jazmine Povlick, Spain
Christina Tillmann, Austria

PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTEES:
87 Honors College students were inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor society in 2015.

“I am a first generation Latina, and soon-to-be graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Having the opportunity to study abroad was a dream in my educational journey... I am extremely appreciative of the Study Abroad Scholarship... because it has expanded my horizons in ways that I could not have imagined.”

– Alma Blancarte, Honors College Class of 2015
The Honors College has implemented strategic efforts to ensure that communications with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader UIC community are consistent, timely, and informative. Key communication methods, most managed by Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist Sara Mehta, include:

**WEBSITE:** The Honors College website has been redesigned by Information Technology Associate Julio Chavarria and will go live soon.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** Over 1,600 people have “liked” the active Facebook page, with over 1,700 people seeing Honors College Facebook content each week throughout the academic year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS TO STUDENT LISTSERV:** Regular “Announcements” emails inform students about Honors College programs, events, and deadlines as well as relevant campus events, scholarships, internships and research opportunities, etc.

**HONORS COLLEGE HANDBOOK:** The Honors College Handbook outlines expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities for Honors College students.

**THE AMPERSAND AND HONORABLE MENTIONS:** An artfully redesigned Ampersand, the student-run newsletter with three issues in 2014-15, and Honorable Mentions, the annual print newsletter, inform all constituents about news and events in the Honors College. The Ampersand also successfully launched a new online blog highlighting the day-to-day experiences of Honors College students.

**FACILITIES**

The Honors College quickly becomes the “home away from home” for many students on campus, as can be seen by the bustle of students in Burnham Hall on any given day. Students have access to a wide array of facilities at the Honors College, including a kitchen, student lounge, quiet study space, computer lab, copy service, tutoring center, student organization space, and classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment. Prime student spaces are open until 8:00 p.m. during Fall and Spring semesters, staffed by student volunteers from HCAB. Honors College facilities were renovated during Summer 2013, which created more office space for a growing staff without decreasing available classroom or student space. The College thanks Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Mark Donovan for his support of the college space and departmental contributions to renovations.
The Honors College places great importance on developing opportunities for graduate student learning and professional growth, supporting graduate study in the following ways:

- Continued the partnership with the Graduate College by awarding the "Graduate Student Awards for Undergraduate Student Mentoring" to 5 graduate students in 2015 including Leigh Hellman, the Graduate Assistant and Editorial Advisor for Honors College publications.
- Continued the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Teaching and Mentoring (see below)
- Continued the UIC Honors internship for Loyola University Chicago Higher Education Graduate Interns in 2013, led by Advisor Eliza Callahan. All former interns have obtained full-time positions:
  - Summer 2013: Gwyn Garrison at Tulane University, Andrew Miller at Loyola University Chicago
  - Summer 2014: Keenan Cutsforth at Loyola University Chicago
  - Fall 2014: Katherine Murphy at Loyola University Chicago
  - Spring 2015: Kristin Butnik at Elmhurst College

- Employment of a graduate student from the English Department as the Graduate Assistant and Editorial Advisor for the Honors College student publications:
  - Spring 2012 – Fall 2013: Jennifer Hawe
  - Spring 2014 – Spring 2015: Leigh Hellman
- Employment of graduate students to assist with IT projects:
  - 2013-14: Aditya Mahankali, Department of Computer Science, and Santosh Ravi, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - 2014-15: Anirudh Ramnath, Department of Computer Science

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN TEACHING AND MENTORING:**

These were established in 2011 to provide Honors undergraduates with a faculty-in-residence for teaching and mentoring resources, and to provide newly minted UIC PhDs with an exceptional opportunity to gain teaching and advising experience under the mentorship of the Dean and Associate Deans, in preparation for quality teaching-oriented tenure-track jobs. Postdoctoral Fellows teach freshman core courses and the Honors Freshman Seminar, advise a cohort of Honors freshmen and senior Honors Capstone thesis students, and direct Chicago Signature Honors Programming. The first Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Ekaterina Pirozhenko, obtained a prestigious position as teaching faculty and advising Assistant Dean at Cornell University last year. The Postdoctoral Fellows hired in 2013, Dr. Vernon Lindsay (Educational Policy Studies, College of Education) and Dr. Aleksei Zarnitsyn (Philosophy, College of LAS), continued for a second year in 2014-2015.

**HONORS COLLEGE STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

As ongoing professional development, Honors College staff participated in numerous professional organizations and conferences throughout 2014-15:

- American Association of Colleges and Universities
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
- Cooperative Education and Internship Association
- Leadership Illinois
- Midwest First-Year Conference
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and ILACADA (Illinois affiliate)
- National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions
- National Association of Fellowships Advisors
- National Collegiate Honors Council

Leigh Hellman received a Graduate Student Award for Undergraduate Student Mentoring for her work with the Honors College student publications.
Dean Bottoms has provided leadership for the Honors College since November 2008. The Dean, her Management Team (Associate Deans Hui-Ching Chang, Sara Hall, and Stacie Williams), and other staff collaborate with faculty and student committees to advance the Honors College’s mission.

**HONORS COUNCIL:** The Honors Council is the executive committee of the Honors College, composed of 22 faculty members from across all colleges, the Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, the Chair of the Diversity Committee, a designate of the Dean, the HCAB student President, and the Student Leadership Council Chair. It was co-chaired in 2014-2015 by Drs. Ralph Keen and Barbara Jericho.

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:** The Honors College By-Laws were changed to create a standing Diversity Committee to oversee implementation of the Honors College Diversity Strategic Plan. It is co-chaired by Faculty Fellows Teresa Orenic and Nancy Cirillo. Other 2014-15 members include Faculty Fellows Stephanie Crawford, Shahbanoo Fadavi, Jesus Garcia-Martinez; Megan Carney, Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center; Associate Dean Chang; Brian Ward, Assistant Director for Admissions; and Honors students Nasseef Quasim and Rowida Zatar.

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (EPC):** Composed of five faculty members representing natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, and led by Associate Dean Hui-Ching Chang, the interdisciplinary EPC guards standards of quality in the Honors College curriculum through a rigorous review process. The EPC also serves as a “think tank” for the College curriculum, continually evaluating, planning, and reinventing the Honors slate of courses. As in previous years, approximately one-third of Honors courses were new course offerings this past year.

**HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD (HCAB):** HCAB is the official Honors College student activities organization. The HCAB President represents the student body on the Honors Council. See p. 19 for more information about HCAB.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (SLC):** The Dean’s Student Leadership Council is composed of representatives from each Honors College student organization. See p. 19 for more information about SLC.

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**Honors Council**

**Faculty Members**
- Barbara Jericho, Co-Chair
- Ralph Keen, Co-Chair
- Barbara Berger
- Jerry Bona
- Juliana Chan
- Robert Chirinko
- Nancy Cirillo
- Houshang Darabi
- Miriam Ezenwa
- Shar Fadavi
- Mark Grabiner
- Ronald Hershow
- Elizabeth Loetz
- Kara Morgan Short
- Patricia O’Brien
- Teresa Orenic
- David Perry
- Jennifer Reeder
- Margarita Saona
- Scott Shippy
- Benjamin Superfine
- Duncan Wardrop

**Ex-Officio Members**
- Bette L. Bottoms
- Stacie Williams
- Hui-Ching Chang
- Sara Hall
- Kevin Browne
- Beth Powers
- Shivam Thakkar
- Cristian Nuno

**Educational Policy Committee**

**Faculty Members**
- Duncan Wardrop, Chair
- Faith Bonecutter
- Todd DeStigter
- Joel Palka
- Barbara Simmons

**Honors College Representatives:**
- Hui-Ching Chang
- Eliza Callahan

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Honors College faculty leadership at the 2014 Honors College New Student Reception. From Left: Honors Faculty Fellow Roberta Paikoff-Holzmueller; Honors Council members Ralph Keen, Nancy Cirillo, Teresa Orenic, Barbara Jericho; and Dean Bette Bottoms.
**HONORS COLLEGE STAFF:**
The core strength of the Honors College is its staff, whose members are highly trained, professional, committed, and effective. The College’s diverse staff, of which nearly 50% are of minority ethnicities or races, are responsible for a variety of different areas within the College. Associate Dean Stacie Williams oversees all staff and operations of the College. The Honors College maintains a student-to-advisor ratio of 300:1, the national NACADA standard for college advising, and all Honors Academic Advisors and Program Specialists have Master’s degrees. They teach Freshman Seminars and other seminars, advise students from every undergraduate college on campus, manage recruitment and admissions, and develop various Honors programs. In addition, the operations staff has been reorganized and expanded to streamline processes, and will welcome a new leader, Assistant Dean Anthony Keevan, in Summer 2015. They manage the College’s human resources, finances, procurement processes, information technology, student records, and facilities, and also organize events for the college. Assistant to the Dean Christina Ruiz plans College events, manages the Dean’s calendar, and teaches freshman seminars. The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) is a budgetary unit under the Honors College, while still serving the general student body, managing the UIC Scholarship Association Awards, and coordinating the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions program.

Brian Ward receives INSPIRE Award
Brian Ward, Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, received the 2014 UIC INSPIRE Award, recognizing his long-term, consistent, and outstanding professional service to the UIC community.

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**2014 - 2015 HONORS COLLEGE STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bette L. Bottoms</td>
<td>Dean of the Honors College, Professor of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hui-Ching Chang</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Hall</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Germanic Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacie Williams</td>
<td>Associate Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Lindsay</td>
<td>Honors Postdoctoral Fellow in Teaching and Mentoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleksei Zarnitsyn</td>
<td>Honors Postdoctoral Fellow in Teaching and Mentoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Domkowski</td>
<td>Director of Advancement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerardo Jimenez</td>
<td>Director of Resources Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Ward</td>
<td>Assistant Director of Admissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza Callahan</td>
<td>Honors Academic Advisor &amp; Program Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Gardiner</td>
<td>Honors Academic Advisor &amp; Program Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Mehta</td>
<td>Honors Academic Advisor &amp; Program Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie O’Leary</td>
<td>Honors Academic Advisor &amp; Program Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julio Chavarria</td>
<td>Information Technology Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Ruiz</td>
<td>Assistant to the Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiana Johnsen</td>
<td>Business Administrative Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aisha-Kia Pleasant</td>
<td>Program Assistant</td>
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**OFFICE OF SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elisabeth Powers</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tula Georgopoulos</td>
<td>GPPA Program Coordinator and Scholarship Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheena Miller</td>
<td>Scholarship Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Thomas</td>
<td>(Spring 2015) Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The available Honors College budget, approximately $1.6M this past fiscal year as shown above (not including the Office of Special Scholarship Programs, which is $203,614, or funding for scholarships, tuition waivers, or gift accounts), comes directly from tuition the Honors College generates. The graph at left shows the additive effect of years of accumulating decrements (budget cuts), resulting from State of Illinois cuts to the university budget and from the Provost's internal reallocations from all colleges to other non-revenue generating units on campus. Even so, the Honors College is strong enough to meet its basic mission because of (a) expense reductions (e.g., staff restructuring, increasing class sizes slightly to reduce the number of instructors, etc.); (b) university tuition increases; and (c) purposeful growth of the College from 1,200 to 1,500 students. The college will remain steady at a membership of 9% of the entire campus undergraduate enrollment, so it will grow larger in the future only as the campus enrollment does.