The Alumni Association Scholarship (HCAA) was launched by the Honors College to provide assistance to Honors students with financial need. Since its inception in 2010, the HCAA Scholarship has awarded two scholarships in the 2012 academic year. The HCAA Scholarship can be a real rallying point for alumni. "We all benefited from our time in the Honors College and I know we should do this for the resources of their alumni base," said current HCAA President Eric Leafblad. "We all benefited from our time in the Honors College."
Message from the Dean
Dear Honors College Alumni, Faculty Members, Parents, and Friends:

It’s been another wonderful year in the Honors College, as you will see in this edition of Honorable Mentions. The Times Higher Education of the United Kingdom has just ranked UIC as third in the nation and 11th in the world among young universities, defined as “a new breed of global universities.” Those that have managed to join the world’s top list in just decades rather than centuries.” UIC achieved this status through a focus on research volume and influence, teaching and learning excellence, international outreach, and industry innovation—accomplishments paralleled in the central activities and priorities of the Honors College. Our students assist in the research, participate in the conferences and community engagement projects, go on the study abroad ventures, work in the internships, and study in the educational programs that garnered UIC this stellar recognition. Opportunities and rewards such as these deserve to undergird the core of what we do.

Every day, the student lounge, study room, computer laboratory, and classrooms in the Honors College positively buzz with the ideas and energy of some of the most motivated and accomplished students to be found anywhere. We grow larger and stronger every day. Our enrollment topped 1,500 for the first time, we just celebrated our largest graduating class ever, and we received a record-breaking number of first-year applications. We now look forward to welcoming the Class of 2016, the most diverse class ever.

There are so many ways that you can influence Honors College students. I challenge you to contact me and find out how you can get involved as a scholarship donor, career mentor, senior capstone project supervisor, member of the Honors College Alumni Association, interviewer of prospective students, and so on. Behind every incredible success story in these pages are supportive Honors College staff, faculty, parents, family members, and friends.

Thank you for your continued support of the Honors College. For more details about the accomplishments of our amazing students, read on, and as always, I would love to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Bette L. Bottoms
Dean and Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
Professor of Psychology

Creating Connections with Honors Publications
It’s no secret that Honors College students are a talented, motivated bunch. So it should also come as no surprise that the Honors College boasts five student-run publications, with styles and subjects including news, satire, creative writing, and scientific reporting.

Students, faculty, and staff gathered in April to celebrate a year of hard work and the release of all five publications: The Ampersand, The Asterisk, UIC OneWorld, The Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS), and The Ampersand Student Publications. This is an important point of contact for community building in the Honors College, a place where connections between students and faculty, peer relationships among students, and ties between the Honors College and the larger campus are formed and strengthened. A key to the journals’ success this year has been the editorial leadership of Jenn Haew, an English doctoral student who has worked carefully on structural and editorial issues for all the publications. In her words, “The student writers and editors are so self-motivated, so driven, and so fun to work with. They’re so committed to creating top-quality publications – it’s wonderful to see how well they set goals and work in teams on their own initiative.”

Working on an Honors College publication is, for many students, an important part of the college experience. Senior Sashidhar Madugula, an editor for both JPHAS and The Ampersand, said he was particularly proud of how far The Ampersand has come in the two years he’s been involved. Students working on that journal have, with the help of committed Honors faculty and staff advisors, introduced a new logo, a streamlined editorial process, and a new mission statement. In fact, all of the publications are professionalizing, updating mission statements, developing diversity policies, and implementing strategies to keep their publications moving forward.

For the past two years, Honors College publications have provided the primary content for the UIC Freshman Read, an anthology of student writing that is the centerpiece of a campus-wide program for first-year students. The program accompanying the anthology includes events such as poetry readings and film screenings, intended to give freshmen a common experience. This year, student editors from each journal nominated two pieces for inclusion in the 2012 anthology, which takes “my first year” as its theme. With offerings ranging from poetry to a report on public education in Chile, these contributions bring exciting perspectives and topics to the Freshman Read program and build the Honors College’s connection to campus life.

Former Dean Named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Lo S. Kaufman, Professor of Biological Sciences, has been named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost for UIC. Said Honors College Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Bette L. Bottoms, “I am so pleased that Lo has been named Provost. He did a tremendous job when he was Vice Provost and Dean of the Honors College, and I am proud to follow him. He has been a fantastic colleague, friend, and mentor to me for many years. The Honors College is now stronger than ever, largely due to the initiatives Lo launched that grew from his deep understanding of and respect for what the Honors College means to this campus.”

Honors Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2011
The following individuals and organizations have made gifts to the Honors College in fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011). Thanks to their support, the Honors College is able to offer enhanced student programming, scholarships, and financial support for students engaged in research, study abroad, and other academic endeavors. We thank all who have given so far in 2012, and we will include a list of donors in fiscal year 2012 in our next issue.

You can see the full list on the Honors College’s website, www2.uic.edu/orgs/jphas

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Now is a great time to become a supporter of the College with your gift to the annual fund. Simply log on to our online giving page at www.uic.edu/honors/alumni/giving and make your gift today!
Honors applications rose in 2011 to an all-time high of over 1,600 new, continuing, and transfer students. As a result, the entering Class of 2016 will be the most diverse in the history of the College, nearly mirroring the diversity of the total campus.

New Scholarship Program Provides Unsupervised Support

The University of Illinois has recently expanded the long-standing President’s Award Program (PAP) to create PAP Scholars, a pilot scholarship program benefiting UIUC Honors students. Since the 2010-11 academic year, Dean Dan Bottoms—PAP honors is the most significant scholarship pro- gram in the history of the Honors College.” Nearly 80 students will be provided with full tuition, room, and board for four years. Eligibility for PAP Honors is based on ACT composite score, class rank, and one of the following criteria: high-achieving newly admitted freshmen from (a) historically underrepresented groups; (b) Illinois counties that have sent an average of two or fewer students per academic year to the University for the past five years; (c) depend- ent students whose families cannot contribute to the cost of their education. Scholars will participate in a one-week PAP Honors Summer College program, in a three-day leadership program (Project LEAD), in follow-up cohort meetings during the academic year, and will have full access to the wealth of academic enrichment and support of the Honors College.

This scholarship program represents the Honors College’s continued commitment to sup- porting top students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. It is a level of support the College hopes to one day be able to offer every student. By providing high-achieving students with full financial and academic support for four years, the Honors College will not only be able to attract the most motivated and talented students to UIUC, but also retain and graduate those students, allowing the College to grow in exciting ways. This program has real impact not just on the students’ educations, but also on their lives and families. In the words of a PAP Honors Scholar’s parent, “My wife and I are beyond words to express our profound gratitude to you, the Honors College, and the UIUC aca- demic community for this exceedingly magnificent PAP scholarship...Generations to come of our family will know about, and be inspired by, this monumental occurrence.”

Who’s Who in the College: New Staff and Faculty Members Win Awards

Dr. Marsha Cassidy, Lecturer in the UIC Depart- ment of English, received the 2012 Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Pedagogy Award, which recognizes achievement in the areas of instruction, publication, development of educa- tional materials, and service. In her nomination letter, Dean Bollans wrote: "Professor Cassidy is one of the anchoring Fac- ulty of the Honors Col- lege. Her skills in the classroom, her commitment to student excel- lence, her mentoring and service contribu- tions, and her reliable curricular achievements all define an instructor of the highest merit. The Honors College would not be the same without her.”

Dr. Cassidy also received two other awards within the past year: the 2011 University of Illinois Distin- guished Service Award, which honors alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Illinois for extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service, and UIUC’s Silver Circle Award for Teach- ing Excellence for 2011. “I enjoy the intellectual engagement of Honors College students. Biology majors just as interested in my classes as hu- manity majors,” Dr. Cassidy said. Congratulations to Dr. Cassidy for her achievements and her ongo- ing commitment to the College and its students.

Honors Students Once Again Win Prestigious National and Campus Awards

The Honors College is thrilled to announce that during the 2011 and 2012 academic years the following Honors College students and graduates have been named recipients of national and campus awards:

Fullbright Fellowship—sends students abroad for 10 months to study, conduct research, or teach English.

- Kevin Corely, 2011 graduate, kinesiology, taught English to high school students in South Korea in 2011-2012.
- Julianne Favia, 2011 graduate, applied psychology, conducted her research on eating disorders in Toronto, Canada in 2011-2012.
- Jessica Gales, 2011 graduate, anthropology, studied biological anthropology at the University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom in 2011-2012.
- Sarah Igel, 2011 graduate, political science, taught English in Jordan in 2011-2012.
- Ada Madehshir, 2004 graduate, biological sciences, and 2006 graduate, public health, researched food security policy development in the island kingdom of Tonga with the Tonga Health Promotion Foundation in 2011-2012.

Gilman International Scholarship—for students who are often underrepresented in study abroad.

- Grant Buhr, senior, sociology, Ecuador, awarded in 2011.
- Dylan Busser, senior, biochemistry, Thailand, awarded in 2011.
- Rosie Rangel, 2010 graduate, history, Italy, awarded in 2011.
- Naheed Ahmad, senior, biological sciences, Morocco, awarded in 2012.
- Alexander Guerra, junior, criminology, law and justice, Morocco, awarded in 2012.
- Osama Hasan, junior, biological sciences, Botswana, awarded in 2012.

Goldwater Scholarship—for students committed to research careers in math, science, or engineering.

- Alan Tang, 2012 graduate, biochemistry and mathematics, awarded in 2011.
- Wenji Guo, junior, biological sciences, awarded in 2012.

National Science Foundation—for graduate study in science, math, engineering, and the social sciences.

- Pamela Pimentel, 2009 graduate, psychology, to fund her doctoral research at Florida International University on factors that cause juveniles to falsely confess to crimes, awarded in 2012.
- Xing Zhang, 2012 graduate, economics, to fund her PhD in economics at Cornell University, awarded in 2012.

Phi Kappa Phi $5,000 Graduate Fellowship—to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study.

- Xing Zhang, 2012 graduate, economics, to fund her PhD in economics at Cornell University, awarded in 2012.

Schweitzer Fellowship—provides students with opportunities to design and implement innovative year-long projects that will help vulnerable communities improve their health and well-being.

- Anand Santeeza, 2009 graduate, biological sciences and history, awarded in 2011.
- Edileia Jamez, senior, nursing, awarded in 2012.
- Sodebhe Elminan, 2004 graduate, biological sciences, awarded in 2012.

U.S. State Department Critical Languages Scholarship—provides overseas group-based summer intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for eight to ten weeks.

- Hugh Vondracek, sophomore, political science, to study Turkish at the Tübitak University, Bursa, Turkey, awarded in 2012.

Whitaker Fellowship—for emerging leaders in U.S. biomedical engineering overseas to undertake a self-designed project that will enhance their own careers within the field.

- Nicholas Flores, 2012 graduate, bioengineering, awarded in 2012.

Donald and Lea Riddell Prize—presented annually to the outstanding senior at UIUC based on academic excellence and leadership.

- Nicholas Flores, 2015 graduate, philosophy, awarded in 2012.

Lincoln Laureate Award—presented annually by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois to recognize one senior at each four-year degree granting institution within Illinois who embodies academic and extra-curricular excellence.

- Joshua Kannankeril, 2011 graduate, biological sciences and chemistry, awarded in 2010.
- Nicholas Flores, 2012 graduate, philosophy, awarded in 2011.

Projected Enrollment for Fall 2012

Incoming First-Year Class

of Illinois

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The Honors College Engages All of Its Students

One reason for Honors students’ impressive graduation rate is that the Honors College actively promotes what literature refers to as “high-impact educational practices.” These practices, which have been shown to engage undergraduates and thereby increase student success in college, include first-year seminars, community volunteer work, under-graduate research, internships, and capstone thesis projects.

Consistent with UIC’s stature as one of the top 50 public research universities in the United States, the Honors College particularly encourages students to engage in undergraduate research. In fact, this past year, around 390 students completed their capstone thesis projects, a required, in-depth, original examination of a topic conducted over two semesters under the supervision of a discipline-specific faculty advisor and with the guidance of the student’s Honors Fellow. Importantly, an additional 250 students conducted research under the supervision of UIC faculty, resulting in 34% of all Honors students participating in research at some point during the academic year. The results were visible at the campus-wide 2012 UIC Student Research Forum, where 94% of the undergraduates participating and 9 out of 12 undergraduate prize winners were Honors students.

Philanthropic support allowed the College to provide research grants totaling $40,000 in 2012.

New Endowed Scholarships Make a Real Difference in Students’ Lives

We are proud to announce that two new endowed scholarships have been established to assist Honors College students. The first is the Van Hecke and Baechle Student Award Fund. UIC Associate Vice Chancellor for Development Chuck Van Hecke and his wife Sally Baechle created and began contributing to an endowed fund several years ago. When the fund grew to the point where student awards could be made, they decided to designate the fund to assist Honors students with financial need. Honors College Dean and William Bottoms praised this new award: “Chuck and his wife Sally have been supporters of the Honors College for years, and we are so grateful for their decision to designate this scholarship for Honors students.” The first recipient of the Van Hecke and Baechle Student Award, the first recipient of the Sally and Kevin Desouza University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni Magazine

Matthew Lippman, a longtime Honors College Fellow and professor in the Department of Criminal Law, and Justice, has long been energy and talents to the Honors College for over twenty years. He has seen the Honors College grow from a small program—he recalls one graduation ceremony in the early years with thirty students and two faculty members in attendance—to 1,500 students and over 300 Faculty Fellows. In his words: “The three deans who succeeded Dean Kerr have built on his vision to create the marvelous institution that we have today.” But Professor Lippman himself has also been instrumental in bringing us the College’s vision for outstanding teaching, scholarship, and public service. In addition to his work in the classroom and as a scholar, Professor Lippman is active in human rights and international law. This triple commitment—to teaching, scholarship, and advocacy—distinguishes Professor Lippman’s career and his contributions to the Honors College.

The accomplishments of Professor Lippman’s students speak to the strength of his teaching, for which he has won nearly every teaching award at UIC. Five of his advisees have won UIC’s Donohand and Dale Rice Prize for Outstanding Graduating Senior, and five have been named Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureates. 2005 Honors alumnus and Rice Prize recipi- ent Ana Petrovic stated: “Professor Lippman has been just as instrumental as my parents in guiding me through educational, professional, and even personal challenges. In mentoring me, he was always careful to give me both objective advice as a professor and personal advice as a friend. He motivated me to become a better student and continue to inspire me to become a better person.”

The Honors College Names Dr. Howard Kerr, Former Dean

Dr. Howard H. Kerr, who served as Honors College Dean from 1985 to 1996, passed away August 14, 2011, at the age of 80 after a lengthy illness. Dean Kerr was instrumental in the creation and expansion of the Honors College. He was the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Academic Programs at the time the College was established, and was the longest-serving Dean. He left quite a legacy to our College and to our campus, and he is truly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

Dean Kerr: A Tribute

By Rachel Klugman Seeger, Class of 1989

I transferred to UIUC in 1987 after leaving the University of Kansas on academic proba- bility and spending a semester at the College of Lake County, where I made a 4.0. In my first two quarters at UIC, I took 28 hours per quarter and again made a 4.0. At some point around this time, I received a letter from Dean Kerr stating that he wanted to meet with me to discuss entering the Honors College. I remember saying to my mom, “He must have the wrong Rachel.” Once in the Honors College, I took many classes that challenged me academically and helped me expand my knowledge and skill set. I recall telling Dean Kerr how much it meant to me that he gave me a chance and believed in me. I never forgot that. I went on to obtain a joint Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master of Nonprofit Management from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1993.

After being a Presidential Management Fellow, I began my federal career in 1993 with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a legislative analyst. To- day, I am the Director of Communications and Acting Chief Budget Officer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. Quite a ride since be- ing asked to take that break from the Univer- sity of Kansas! I often credit UIUC and Dean Kerr for where I am today—he was quite sim- ply an awesome mentor who saw past what I was on paper and recognized students for their full potential. What a tremendous person he was. I know that his impact on UIUC has left a strong and enduring legacy throughout the alumni network and beyond.

Honors Activities for the 2011-12 Academic Year

HONORS IS LINKEDIN!

Join the UIC Honors College Alumni & Friends LinkedIn group to connect with alumni, James Scholars, and friends of the College, and to get links to news and events.

Professor Lippman values the opportunities to experiment with courses and to collabor- ate with students and faculty that teaching in the Honors College has afforded him. One personal highlight was an innocence clinic, run in collaboration with Associate Dean Ralph Ruebner of the University of Marshall law School. The clinic provided a unique opportu- nity for both Honors College undergraduates and John Marshall Law Students to argue before the State of Illinois Prisoner Review Board on behalf of convicts with meritorious claims to innocence. Professor Lippman also continues to stay engaged with devel- opments in international law. He is a mem- ber of the Nuremberg Scholars Law Group, a joint effort of historians and legal scholars, which files human rights briefs in federal courts. Currently, the group is working on a brief for a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that corporations should be held responsible for human rights violations.

What advice does Professor Lippman have for current Honors College students? “This is a marathon, not a sprint. The question is not where you are today, but where you will be in four years. UIUC is a dream machine that creates ‘brilliant futures.’ Do not be hesitant to approach faculty members for advice or to get involved in their research.”

Faculty Profile: Matthew Lippman

The Honors College Family Loves Dr. Howard Kerr, Former Dean

Sally and Kevin Desouza enjoy meeting 2011 Faculty Fellow of the Year Cheryl Nakata and Otilia Flandro, courtesy of the Honors College

Sally and Kevin Desouza enjoy meeting 2011 Faculty Fellow of the Year Cheryl Nakata and Otilia Flandro, courtesy of UIC Photo Archives

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After being a Presidential Management Fellow, I began my federal career in 1993 with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a legislative analyst. To- day, I am the Director of Communications and Acting Chief Budget Officer for the O.