Honors Alumna Recognized for Loyalty and Service

For the third straight year, the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA) has recognized an Honors graduate for loyalty and service to the College. At the Honors College Convocation on May 8, Honors alumna (2005, LAS) Ms. Ana Petrovic was awarded the Honors Alumna Recognized for Loyalty and Service. Ms. Petrovic, a staff attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, also served as the alumni speaker for the Convocation.

Coming to UIC was one of the best decisions of my life. I had wonderful mentors in the Honors College, and received tremendous academic, personal, and even financial support from the Honors College Community. I encourage you to appreciate and brag about the UIC community. To lead by example, I’m going to briefly brag about my close circle of friends from UIC, many of whom were in the Honors College:

- Hemani Mehta now teaches math and coaches debate at Neuqua Valley High School. He has also published three books; has been featured on CNN, Fox News, and the Wall Street Journal; and has also contributed to NPR and the Washington Post.
- Neil Iyengar is a physician who is now doing fellowship in oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York City.
- Anne Kiraly-Alvarez is an Occupational Therapist who has co-authored a new version of the OT Assessment tool. She is a conference chair of the Illinois OT Association, and works for the Indian Prairie School District.
- Manisha Sahay Mitra is a physician who is completing her fellowship in neurology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She has published and presented research related to women’s health and neurology issues.
- Karim Basaria is a graduate of Northwestern Law School. He is currently clerking for Judge Kendall in the Northern District of Illinois and will be working at the prominent law firm, Sidley Austin.
- Ian Williams is a graduate of Northwestern Law School. In his first jury trial, he obtained an $8.3 million dollar verdict in favor of his client. He is now clerking for Judge Pallmeyer of the Northern District of Illinois.
- Elizabeth O’Brien is a graduate of Loyola Law School, and has recently been named as a partner to a prominent law firm based in Chicago, Stahl Cowen, LLP.

So, I encourage you to brag. I also encourage you to remain connected. I remained involved with UIC throughout law school. One reality that you will quickly encounter as you pursue your careers is that most opportunities open up through who you know—networking. Fortunately, you are part of a strong network that will support you, but you need to remain visible.

And, once you succeed, give back—through mentoring, volunteering, and also financially when you are able. Many students, including you, are dependent upon such generosity. The more support we can offer to our community, the more we will all benefit.

Congratulations!
College Teams with Wood Family Foundation

With Governor Pat Quinn in attendance, on April 24, 2013, the Honors College held a joint press conference at UIC with the Wood Family Foundation to make a major announcement: the establishment of the Kerry and Sarah Wood Family Foundation Scholarship in the Honors College. Ms. Gabriella Santoyo, a Lawndale resident who graduated from Chicago Bulls College Preparatory High School, was named as the Wood Scholar. As an incoming first-year student, she received a comprehensive scholarship, covering full tuition, fees, amenities, books, room and board, and laptop computer. The College will provide housing during the summer to allow participation in summer coursework, undergraduate research, an internship, or study abroad.

The Wood Family Foundation, established in 2011 by retired star Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood and his wife, Sarah, works to improve the lives of youth in four Chicago neighborhoods: Austin, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Lawndale. Kerry Wood explained: “We are excited for this opportunity, for children in our target neighborhoods, to achieve their dreams through this scholarship program. Our foundation’s focus is to improve the lives of children and what better way than to concentrate on giving these children a bright future.”

Message from the Dean

Dear Honors College Alumni, Faculty, Students, Parents, and Friends:

As we enter the 2013-2014 academic year, the Honors College makes a strong impression — perhaps the strongest in its history. As the college has grown to 1588 outstanding students and over 350 Faculty Fellows from every discipline, so too have the students’ impressive accomplishments, the Honors initiatives supporting them, and the Honors college’s value to UIC.

The UIC Honors College delivers unmistakable value to UIC in myriad ways. For example, the Honors College allows UIC to compete with universities having more prestigious reputations in recruiting top students. In fact, 65% of this year’s Honors freshmen said that they “would not have come to UIC if UIC had not been for the Honors College.” Also, the enhanced academic opportunity, challenge, and support provided by the Honors College allows UIC to ensure the success of outstanding students. Students who have been members of the Honors College have higher average GPAs, graduate at higher rates, conduct more research, lead more worthwhile causes, and win more local and national awards. They excel in the classroom, in the laboratory, and in the cultural and intellectual spaces of Chicago through the Chicago Signature Honors Program, and in the world through study abroad.

The Honors College’s value to the campus also emerges from its role as a development ground for programs that are later expanded to the campus at large for the benefit of all students (e.g., the Undergraduate Research Experience, courses involving Intergroup Dialogue and programs), and for programs such as the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Teaching and Mentoring, wherein new UIC PhDs are prepared for quality liberal arts faculty positions, and Honors students benefit from these young faculty in-residence.

The success of the Honors College is captured well in this note I recently received from a new student: “I am confident I will fit in perfectly at UIC, mainly because the Honors College has made me feel so comfortable and at ease. I have no fears of college anymore because the Honors College has made me feel safe; the advisors and faculty genuinely care about my well-being. I am so fortunate to be a part of such a great college.”

I also feel fortunate to be a part of this great Honors College. Best wishes,

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

GPPA: A Strong Honors College Partner

The Honors College maintains a strong partnership with the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions (GPPA) program, which allows a limited number of 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 students be members of the Honors College, ensuring their education is enhanced by the Honors curriculum and that they receive support from Honors Advisors, Faculty Fellows, and other Honors College resources, in addition to the many resources provided by GPPA. Approximately 12% of applicants were admitted to GPPA programs for fall 2013, including 56 in Medicine, 39 in Pharmacy, 15 in Engineering, 7 in Physical Therapy, and five in Dentistry.

Honor Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2013

The following individuals and organizations have made gifts to the Honors College in fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013). 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.

Thank you to all of our donors—we greatly appreciate your support!

Counselor’s Circle Donors: $2,500+

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Dr. Michael D. and Mrs. Melissa Appell
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Ms. Cynthia Herrera Lindstrom
Dr. Romeo A. MacTal
Mr. Jacqueline Y. MaTalYong
Mr. Judith N. Maitoz
Ms. Michele D. Morrow and Ms. Julia Slasi
Mr. Thomas J. and Mrs. Karen S. Shimura
Mr. Kun Y. Patel
Dr. Ekaterina Pirochenko
Ms. Elizabeth Powers
Mr. Arnold L. Rotkin III
Mr. Cyndu J. Schu
Mr. James K. Shaw
Mr. John W. and Mrs. Barbara D. Shaw
Ms. Amy G. Shelton
Mr. Matthew Y. Shicker
Mr. William J. Supina
Mr. Thomas A. Waltzer
Ms. Denika L. Wilson

Corporations

Abbott Fund
Arlington International Racecourse
Black Ensemble Theater
Broadway in Chicago
Chicago Bulls
Chicago Cubs
Chicago History Museum
Chicago History Museum Donor Dr. Joseph D. Kotulski
Chicago History Museum Dr. Joseph D. Jachna
Chicago History Museum Ms. Mary Lynn Sedivec
Chicago History Museum Mr. John T. and Mrs. Karen S. Nishimura
Chicago History Museum Mr. William J. Susinka
Chicago History Museum Mr. Robert W. and Mrs. Lee Matanky
Chicago History Museum Mr. Thomas J. and Ms. Kimberly A. Shaw
Chicago History Museum Mr. William J. Susinka
Chicago History Museum Mr. Robert W. and Mrs. Lee Matanky
Chicago History Museum Mr. Romeo A. and Mrs. Laura A. Calvache
Chicago History Museum Ms. Sheila Ellen Goldman
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Chicago History Museum Ms. Amy G. Shelton
Chicago History Museum Mr. Matthew Y. Shicker
Chicago History Museum Mr. William J. Supina
Chicago History Museum Mr. Thomas A. Waltzer
Chicago History Museum Ms. Denika L. Wilson

Annex:

Urban Oasis

Mr. Andres J. and Mrs. Jennifer A. Hernandez
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Marissa J. Hap
Mr. Andrew J. and Mrs. Jennifer A. Hernandez
Dr. Robert P. Hallock-HolmMueller
Mr. Ronan V. Igoiria
Ms. Gerardo Jimenez
Ms. Elizabet R. Valdes Kacoor
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Ms. Amy G. Shelton
Mr. Matthew Y. Shicker
Mr. William J. Supina
Mr. Thomas A. Waltzer
Ms. Denika L. Wilson
The Honors College is 1500 of the best students in the region, men and women, chosen. This is the power of the Honors College. It opens doors, it creates a way in which I, as a faculty member, can acknowledge the vitality that they bring to the UIC community.”

Dr. Ralph Keen: Faculty Fellow, Honors Council Member, and Gentleman Friend of the College

Dr. Ralph Keen came to UIC in 2010 as Professor of History and the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation Chair in Catholic Studies. After hearing a seminar, talking to individual students, stopping by the forum when they’re presenting their capstone projects: “Students in the Honors College have chosen UIC, often over institutions able to offer more generous aid. For most, the price of an education is a substantial burden, the bearing of which can impede a student’s progress. "No one who has gotten to know these students can be oblivious to the sacrifices they and their families make for what they consider the privilege of a UIC education. As an instructor I wish I could tell those families that the chance to work with their students is our privilege. “Supporting our students is a way in which I, as a faculty member, can acknowledge the vitality that they bring to the UIC community.”

The Honors College is very grateful to Dr. Keen for his myriad interests, and I will take advantage of this opportunity to become an engaged representative, I shared just how significantly this award has benefited my life, and I provided insight into some of the common financial challenges students face.

Dr. Ralph Keen: Faculty Fellow, Honors Council Member, and Gentleman Friend of the College

Being a member of the Honors College has given me the opportunity to network with students having similar ambitions, and I would like to take my career into the sphere of public health. To explore this interest, I joined Peer Health Exchange, a non-profit organization committed to providing positive health messages to teenagers. There is nothing more rewarding than empowering high school freshman to make their own health decisions. FIONA O’CONNOR

Another phenomenal opportunity that arose through my connection to Dean Bottoms and the Honors College is the chance to sit on a university committee dedicated to student success. As a student representative, I shared just how significantly this award has benefited my life, and I provided insight into some of the common financial challenges students face.

This is the power of the Honors College. It opens doors, it gets you where you want to go. All you have to do is ask questions, work hard, and take advantage of the plethora of resources available to Honors College Students. I am so privileged to be a part of the first class of PAP-Honors students in the history of UIC, and I will take advantage of this opportunity to become an educated citizen who gives back to society. I am very excited about my success this year, and I am prepared to continue my academic path for the next year and beyond. The support from the Honors College has been essential in my successful transition to college. I know UIC was absolutely the best choice, and I can see how bright my future will be.

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The U.S. federal government provides Pell grants to students who are determined to have a low or zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the cost of their education. This roughly translates to the equivalent of a family of four with a household income of around $40,000 or less, for example.

Racial/Ethnic Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degree-Granting Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Health</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Architecture</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Pharmacy, Urban Planning</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pell Eligible</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pell Eligible</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2012-13 Honors Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Core or Seminar</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Faculty Seminar</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Capstone Project</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Research</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service/Leadership</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Org. or Publication</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship or Study Abroad</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The core strength of the Honors College is its staff, whose members are highly trained, professional, committed, and effective. The College maintains a student-to-advisor ratio of 300:1, the national standard for college advising, and at the Honors Academic Advisors and Program Specialists have Master’s degrees. They teach Freshman 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 business processes, including human resources, finances, information technology, student records, and facilities. The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) is now a budgetary unit under the Honors College, but continues to serve the general student body.

Who’s Who in the College

The Chicago Signature Honors Programming is a new extracurricular initiative that connects our students with the cultural and intellectual diversity that only the Chicago urban environment can provide. Led by the Honors Post-Doctoral Fellows in Teaching and Mentoring, the program engages students intellectually, culturally, and artistically, and provides students with mentoring outside the traditional classroom setting. Students have experienced the Lyric Opera, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Goethe Institute, the Helen Birch Bayh Library, the National Museum of Mexican Art, attended local plays and exhibits, and taken neighborhood tours. The students often speak with players, directors, and artists—all at no cost to the students.

Innovative Series: The Chicago Signature Honors Programming

Dr. Ekaterina Pirozhenko was the first Post-Doctoral Fellow to lead the program. Associate Dean Sara Hall noted, “Dr. Pirozhenko brought an immense amount of energy and initiative to her role in the Honors College. The ingeniously she applied to seeking out and arranging excursions for Chicago Signature Programming opened up so many new experiences for our students and bridged new and important relationships between the UIC Honors College and a variety of Chicago neighborhoods, cultural centers, and institutions.”

Successful Post-Doctoral Program Expands

In 2011, the Honors College established a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Teaching and Mentoring. This fellowship provides Honors undergraduates with a faculty-in-residence for teaching and mentoring resources. In turn, it provides aspiring faculty who have recently completed their PhDs at UIC with an exceptional opportunity to gain teaching and mentoring experience under the mentorship of the Dean and Associate Deans, in preparation for quality teaching-oriented tenure-track jobs. The Postdoctoral Fellow teaches freshman core classes and the Honors Freshman Seminar, advises a cohort of Honors freshmen and senior Honors Capstone thesis students, and directs Chicago Signature Honors Programming. The first Postdoctoral Fellow, who received her doctorate in Germanic Studies from the College of LAS, Dr. Ekaterina Pirozhenko, just obtained a prestigious position as faculty and Assistant Dean at Cornell University. Due to the overwhelming success of the Fellowship, the College has hired two Post-Doctoral Fellows for 2013-14: Dr. Vernon Lindsay from UIC’s College of Education, and Dr. Aleks Zarnitsyn from Philosophy in the College of LAS.