

The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

October 1997

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 21	Study Abroad Information Session
Oct. 24-25	Law School Forum
Oct. 27	Spring 98 Semester Registration Materials Mailed
Nov. 1	Deadline for CIC/ WISE Travel Grants
Nov. 3	Spring 98 Timetable Distributed
Nov. 6	Fall Luncheon

The Honors College Gets a New Look

by Rachel Daniell

The Honors College has moved to new facilities at Burnham Hall, and there have been many exciting changes. The look is more modern and definitely more comfortable than the old Science and Engineering Offices. This new layout allows everyone to feel more at home in the Honors College. Especially exciting is the new student lounge and the new computer lab.

The student lounge has been furnished with comfortable new couches - they are beautiful, too! It really makes you feel at home - but please, no jumping on the furniture! There are plenty of windows in the room so no one has to feel like they are in some "stuffy" old building. This creates a great atmosphere for everyone, whether they are studying, tutoring, or just hanging out! Make sure you check out the new lounge!

Most students seem to agree that one of the most exciting parts of the move to Burnham Hall was the installment of the new computer facilities. This new computer lab will be equipped with approximately three times as many computers as the old lab over at SEO! Plus, one of the perks of being in the Honors College is that only Honors College students will have access to these computers! No more waiting in those long lines, fighting for computers elsewhere! Note: other non-Honors College students have discovered how comfortable this lab is already and therefore, there will be ID checks to make sure the users are from the Honors College. Just make sure you have your Honors College sticker on your I-card!

Both of these facilities in the Honors College are available for your use. Be sure to take advantage of the new lounge, with its comfortable environment that is conducive to both studying and visiting, and the new computer lab, with the new computers and limited access to Honors College students. These are just some of the perks you receive for being in the Honors College. Enjoy!

It's Not Too Early to Start Thinking About the Ball!

What's the best way to combat those winter blues? Well, how about going to this year's Honors College Ball? The annual event is attended by students, faculty, and community members.

Anyone who wants a good meal, a great view of the Chicago skyline at night, and some good ol' dancing fun is invited.

This year's ball will be held at La Strada on March 7th, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The theme, chosen by students, will be "Night Under the Stars." Everyone is invited to dance the night away at the top of the plaza, in the heart of Chicago's downtown.

So start thinking about who you are going to ask and what you are going to wear. Maybe winter won't be quite as long this year!

Look on page 6
for a listing
of Spring '98 Honors
College Core Courses.
The full listing of spring
Honors courses is on the
Honors College web page:
<http://www.hc.uic.edu>

A "Luvabull" Alum

Honors College alum and former Dancing Flame **Nickole Harris** recently earned a spot on the 1997-98 Chicago Bulls 'Luvabulls' dance squad.

So if you are lucky enough to get a ticket for a Bulls game this season, be sure to cheer on Nickole, too!

What Are You Doing Next Summer?

Why not apply to be an Orientation Leader? You can help new students get to know UIC and benefit from your experiences here. It's a great way to build leadership skills, earn money, and exhibit your UIC pride.

The application deadline has been extended; you can pick up applications at any of the following locations:

- * 1600 SSB
- * SSB Information Desk
- * CIU Information Desk
- * CCC, Rm. 712
- * CCC, Rm. 118
- * Honors College Office, 103 BH

For more information, contact Kelly McCray at 996-3100 or ckm0903@uic.edu

Travel Grants Available

Undergraduate women students enrolled in any science, engineering, or mathematics degree program are eligible to apply for travel grants to enable them to present papers or posters at professional conferences. Deadline to apply is November 1st; decisions will be announced by December 1st.

Applications are available in the Honors College office, 103 BH. For more information, contact Stacey Wenzel at 413-7342, or swenzel@uic.edu



Find Out About Study Abroad Opportunities

England? Spain? Germany? Australia? Where have you always wanted to go?

Find out about study abroad opportunities in these and other countries around the world by attending an information session on Tuesday, October 21st at 3:00 p.m. in Room 114 Burnham Hall.

Staff from the Study Abroad office will be there to answer questions and provide information on the various programs available. Study Abroad alums will also be there to tell you about some of their experiences in lands far away.



UIC/NBC5 Homework Hotline Success All Around

by Anita Vijayakumar

UIC, in conjunction with NBC Channel 5, has set up a homework hotline for Chicago area school children. Students from the Honors College have offered their time to volunteer at the hotline, which meets Monday through Thursday from five to eight at the NBC Tower, in downtown Chicago. The students volunteer one night per week and answer phone calls by students who need help with their homework. The questions range from math and science to geography and general knowledge. There are various textbooks available for reference in case the question stumps the volunteer.

So far the program has been a great success. Depending upon the week, the phones are either ringing off the hook or sitting silently, giving volunteers the time to do their own homework. While the hotline is a tremendous help to local grade school students, it does not only benefit them. Besides gaining experience and benefiting the community, Honors College students who volunteer earn credit for their honors activity for the semester. Also, each volunteer this semester was treated to a tour of NBC's studios and a variety of tasty food at the orientation, as well as an impressive NBC 5 knapsack complete with the trademark peacock stitched into the front flap.

Volunteering at the Homework Hotline is a great way to meet new people and have fun. Anyone who is interested in volunteering next semester should see Jennifer Kosco in the Honors College. We'd love to have you join the team.

Congratulations, Leena!



Senior Biochemistry major **Leena Patel** recently took second place in the “Excellence in Science” competition sponsored by the Department of Pharmacology at Loyola University Medical Center, for which she received a \$300 award.

Congratulations, Leena!

Fall Luncheon is November 6th

Come one, come all to this semester’s Honors College luncheon. Our biannual lunch will be held on Thursday, November 6, 1997. The luncheon runs from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be located in 1043-1047 ERF (Engineering Research Facilities). For those of you who are not familiar with the ERF, it is the building connected to the Science and Engineering Laboratories (SEL) with the avant garde sculpture on it.

To coincide with Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, we will be serving a full Indian lunch. Attending the luncheon does not mean you have to stay the whole time, but it is a chance for you to meet fellow Honors College students, mingle with the faculty, and eat a great (FREE!) meal. T-Shirts will be raffled off, too. Invite a faculty member of your choice and come and take part in the festivities!



Top Ten Reasons Why it is Good that the Honors College Moved to Burnham Hall

10. It is easier for visitors to find.
9. There is no confusion of SEO, SEL, SES, etc.
8. There are no unknown liquids on the stairs that you climb and must step over to get there.
7. It is good for your diet-you cannot snack on the candy bars that were offered in the vending machines.
6. Due to a larger number of computers in the new lab, there is a greater probability that you can get a working computer, keyboard, and mouse.
5. You get to rest your feet by walking on a multicolor carpeted floor, due to the \$1 million remodeling project.
4. You get to use a private, single sex bathroom all to yourself.
3. You get to sit at an overpriced table for tutoring and meetings.
2. You don’t have to see Romeo and Juliet (the two dead birds on the ledge of the stairwell in SEO) when you visit the Honors College.
1. When the hand dryer goes off, everyone knows you’re done in the bathroom!

Considering Law School?

If you’re thinking about law school, you should plan on attending the Law School Forum. This two day event will take place on Fri., Oct. 24 from noon - 7 p.m. and on Sat., Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 South Michigan Avenue. No preregistration is required and admission is free.



You will have the opportunity to speak with representatives of more than 140 top law schools and obtain catalogs and financial aid information. You can also attend workshops on financing a legal education and the application process.

For more information, call 215-968-1001 or visit the Law School Admission Council web site at: <http://www.lsac.org>

by Rebecca Chan

Society for Future Physicians

by Anita Vijayakumar

Who can honestly say that they've endeavored to enter a profession that they knew nothing about? Not many. Most careers which demand highly skilled professionals require years of preparation. This preparation includes gathering information, deciding what conforms to one's liking within the field, and talking to knowledgeable professionals. The Society for Future Physicians aims to accomplish all of this, and more.

The Society was created for pre-med students, although it is not limited to them, and strives to expose them to life not only as a physician, but as a medical student as well. Throughout the year there are planned activities such as the viewing of autopsies and surgeries, panel discussions about medical school and beyond, 'shadowing' of doctors, medical ethics lectures, sports events, and more.

Membership dues for the organization are \$5 for the year. This encompasses fees such as transportation, snacks at meetings, guest lecturers, and whatever other expenses may arise. Although most members are students planning to enter into medical school, this is not a prerequisite. Anyone who is interested in the activities mentioned or is trying to decide if medicine is for them is welcome to join.

The officers for the 1997-98 school year are:

Anita Vijayakumar	President	355-8352
Puneet Shroff	Vice President	355-8316
Lucy Chen	Secretary	355-8130
Chirag Dholakia	Treasurer	355-8316

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to be added to the e-mail list, feel free to call any one of them. They will be more than happy to help you out.



The Honors College: More than Just Priority Registration

by Goud Maragani

Now that priority registration is gone, many students have probably been asking themselves why they should still be in the Honors College. The fact of the matter is that even without priority registration, it is still beneficial to be in the Honors College. Students should take advantage of the many programs and opportunities offered by the Honors College.

In addition, you can get personal advising. There is also the computer lab which has just added 15 more computers, and the Honors lounge, a nice place to go sit and talk with friends. Also, many of the programs that the Honors College supports prepare you for applying to graduate school. The honors activity, that is required every semester, gives you an opportunity to do research, volunteering, or other types of activities.

So for all those people that feel that being in the Honors College is pointless without priority registration, start taking advantage of the programs that are available, and you will see that the Honors College is much more than just priority registration.

Fun and Cheap: Two Words Every College Student Should Know

by Joey Volpe

Looking for something to do? Do you like to shop? Do you like to people watch? If your answer is "YES!" to any or all of the above, then pay attention. I have the perfect place for you to go: the Clark and Belmont area of the north side. This neighborhood (primarily north and south of Belmont between Clark and Halsted) is always alive with activity. All types of people frequent the many cafes, re-sale shops, coffee houses, and bars in the area.

A trip up to Belmont won't cost much, and it is easy to get to. Just hop on the #8 Halsted bus going north. If you are coming from campus, you can pick up the bus on Halsted in front of Chicago Circle Center or north of Harrison across the El stop. After straight ride up Halsted, you're there in no time flat. And the re-sale shops, a favorite of mine, are open until seven p.m. on Fridays so Belmont is a perfect place to go after classes. To me, a great Friday evening is some re-sale shopping, and dinner at one of the many restaurants around the area.

You will find all different sorts of re-sale shops, ranging from the trendy to the eclectic. *Hollywood*, on Belmont between Clark and Halsted, is one of my favorite shops. It is large and fully stocked on two floors. They have everything from bowling shirts to 70's polyester (scary...) to used jeans galore. If you are looking for more mainstream clothing then *Disgraceland* is the place you should go. Located about three blocks north of Belmont on Clark, *Disgraceland* is smaller and has a good selection of pants, skirts, and shirts. One of my favorite shirts came from this gem of a store.

If you are looking for something specific, like coats, *Beatnix* on Halsted, north of Roscoe, is the place for you. This store specialize in coats during fall and winter. They have leather jackets, Navy coats, and even rainbow plaid coats like the one I found! If you need a coat and don't have the money to pay full price, *Beatnix* is the place to go.

(cont'd. on page 5)

Doing an Honors Activity: It's Not That Bad!

by Nicole Scherr

When I was faced with the decision whether or not to join the Honors College, I had to weigh the pros and cons of membership. True, I would have access to many valuable resources, but there was that darned honors activity that I would have to complete every semester. I thought what a pain it would be to add on extra work to my already challenging academic curriculum. At any rate, the pros outweighed the cons and I joined the Honors College.

To my surprise, the dreaded honors activity proved to be one of those valuable things. I decided that since this activity existed to enhance my education, I would pick those that fit my interests and schedule best. I decided against the typical honors classes and opted for the more unique activities.

For my first activity, I chose the Student Literacy Corps. It was through this seminar that I learned the skills to become an effective literacy tutor. I did my field work in the Learning Center of Deborah's Place, a transitional shelter for women. I enjoyed my experience with this kind of work so much that I continued with Student Literacy Corps II. I stayed with Deborah's Place almost a year and a half and set up and maintained a poetry seminar.

Another activity I chose was the Great Cities seminar, which was very enjoyable. Part of the course required a 10-page paper about our neighborhoods. This seemed to be a cumbersome task at first, but it was interesting to investigate the dynamics of my neighborhood.

I also got involved with the "infamous" research that I had been hearing so much about. I worked with another student and a faculty member on a sociological study of immunization rates in the United States. I gained hands-on experience with the collection, organization, and analysis of data (which is definitely a valuable skill).

Currently, I am an NBC Homework Hotline volunteer. For three hours once a week, along with other Honors College students who need assistance with homework assignments. I am having a good time with this program. Although some days prove to be a bit challenging, it is rewarding to be able to help young students learn.

I have done a variety of things for my honors activities and altogether, my experiences have been valuable. The bottom line is: it's not that bad!

We would like to start a new feature in The Ampersand. Students are encouraged to submit opinion pieces about current, relevant issues. Please contact Jennifer Kosco (jkosco@uic.edu) at the Honors College if you are interested.

The Ethics of Euthanasia

by Sapan Desai

The use of absolute laws to govern human behavior can lead to decisions about life or death along inhumane principles. The Commandment that states that "thou shalt not kill" is an example of undermining the employment of euthanasia, more commonly referred to as physician assisted suicide. Active euthanasia, an act of commission that brings about the immediate death of a person, is as ethically permissible an option as passive euthanasia, an act of omission that brings about death over a period of time. To reject active euthanasia would be to endorse principles contrary to our humanitarian impulse to help a person.(1)

Take, for instance, an end-stage, terminally ill patient suffering from a painful form of cancer who is requesting an end to his life.(1) If we blindly follow an absolute law that condemns taking another person's life, we should be forced to try to comfort the patient as much as possible. In this case, however, it would do the patient no good since neither drugs nor medical procedures could alleviate his pain. Stopping the administration of strong anti-cancer drugs and pain-killing medication, passive euthanasia, is clearly not an option since it would put the patient through unbearable agony. The only ethically viable option is a lethal injection with the patient's consent. Though it is the patient's primary biological interest to survive, the cancer has made this impossible. His body is fighting the cancer in vain, and the only viable humanitarian option is to ease his suffering through active euthanasia.

If this cancer patient rationally requests to die by the hands of his physician, what right does society have to say no? Science has removed the notion of absolute laws "ordained by God" by isolating the random processes through which the universe began and humans evolved.(2) Yet, there must be some framework through which we can ethically differentiate between a case where a terminally ill patient wants to die, and a depressed teenager who wants to commit suicide. To solve this dilemma, consider the issue between the right of an individual to shape his destiny, and the responsibility of society to ensure that the individual's choices

Cheap Fun

(cont'd. from page 4)

Once you have shopped till you've dropped, it's time to fortify your fatigued physique. There is no better neighborhood to find a good restaurant than this one. No matter what your taste, you can find it in this area. If you like Thai food, you are certainly in the right place. On Clark, a block north of Belmont, is one of the two locations of *PS Bangkok*, a wonderful Thai restaurant with a variety of dishes. Though *PS Bangkok* is a great place, if your pocketbook is stretched thin, *Siam Corner* is a true treasure. This small Thai restaurant is about one block north of *PS Bangkok*, and features a large menu that is delightful (especially the cashew chicken, and any of their curry dishes), and more importantly, economical. The food is worth twice the price you'll pay.

If Thai is not your food of choice, there are many wonderful restaurants with more mainstream fare. *The Texas Star Fajita Bar & Grill* is across the street from *Siam Corner*. *Alonti Cafe* is on the corner of Belmont and Clark, and the famous and enduring *Ann Sather's* is located one block west of Clark on Belmont. The fabulous food at *Ann Sather's* could satisfy even the most discriminating eater, and people-watching in this bustling restaurant is an activity you shouldn't miss.

Once you have found that great deal, and eaten a delicious meal, it is time to sit back, relax, and observe the vast array of people that walk by. This eclectic neighborhood is one of the most exciting in the city so take part and enjoy yourself!

Spotlight on an HCAB Member: Puneet Shroff

by Nadia Z. Jafri

You may have spotted him in the middle of a heated conversation on campus, working at the Honors College, or on the Honors Floor. Whatever the location, it is hard to miss the mischievous smile of this volatile personality. I speak of none other than our very own HCAB member, **Puneet Shroff**. Puneet is one of the few people who speaks his mind regardless of the consequences, creating many a love/hate relationship with those who know him. He admits that he “loves to argue” and play the devil’s advocate, not necessarily because he disagrees, but rather to make people aware of viewpoints other than their own. Several of us know him as the originator of many a debate at HCAB meetings, but not much past that. I took this opportunity to dwell a little further into what really makes Puneet tick!



Born November 12th, 1977, Puneet spent the first seven years of his life in Libertyville, Illinois. Like all of us, he had his share of childhood escapades. The scar on his hand serves as a reminder of the time he fell from his bike and attempted to heal his wounded hand by dipping it into a pitcher of lemonade, the stinging of which he still remembers. He also fondly remembers crying at the birth of his second sister, which ended his hopes for a younger brother.

At age seven, Puneet and his family moved to India. The three years he spent in India impacted Puneet greatly. To begin with, he missed out on a year of schooling, which is why he is now a year behind in school. He started his studies in India at an upper-class private school based on the British system of education. Upon his return to Libertyville at age ten, Puneet’s parents enrolled him at Lake Forest Country Day School, a private middle school. He soon came to realize that he was no longer part of an “elite” group, as he had been in India. When he was given a choice when it came to selecting a high school, Puneet chose a public institution, Libertyville High School.

Among his memorable high school experiences, his volunteer work for Amigos De Las Americas ranks as a favorite. Through this program, Puneet was sent to a rural Costa Rican town where he lived with a local family whose home did not have electricity or running water. The Costa Rican Ministry of Education sponsored a program where Puneet and other volunteers built a house for a teacher as incentive for him to teach kids in this rural area. Aside from improving his Spanish skills, this experience provided Puneet with a unique and enriching learning experience (after the initial culture shock)!

Rejecting Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Chicago, Puneet chose to attend UIC, where he is a member of the pioneering GPPA class. He is quick to admit that he did not choose UIC for its picturesque campus, but rather for the friendly, receiving atmosphere he encountered at the Honors College and for the GPPA Medicine program. Originally a BioEngineering major, Puneet, currently a second-year student, has now decided to double major in Chemistry and Political Science along with a minor in Spanish. He aspires to practice medicine in the Latino community someday. Ultimately, he would like to combine his interests in medicine and political science by pursuing a career with the World Health Organization.

Not only is Puneet academically-inclined, but he participates in various activities around campus. He is the Vice-President of Membership of Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity. Puneet describes joining APO as an “awesome experience”, providing him with the opportunity to do community service with a diverse group of people, yet still have fun as well. Puneet feels the fraternity, with its different levels of leadership and service, has added spice to his college experience.

(cont'd. on page 7)

Spring Semester 1998 Honors College Core Courses which fulfill general education requirements

*HON 103 - Representations of the Holocaust - 3 hours
52740 2-3:15 TR 207 SH D. Elenbogen
(Same as ENGL 171, 06709)

98857 (LECD) 12-12:50 MW 202 LH V. Wexman
(Same as ENGL 175, 98879 & FR 197, 98912)

*HON 103 - Technology & Literature - 3 hours
52727 9-9:50 MWF 316 DH J. Tabbi
(Same as ENGL 171, 06465)

98866 (LECD) 12-12:50 MW 103 SH P. McCracken
(Same as ENGL 175, 98898 & FR, 98929)

*HON 107 - Literature, Film & Cultural Studies: Reading
Vampires in 19th & 20th Century Narratives - 3 hours
(To be properly registered, you must be enrolled in one LECT & one
LECD)

*HON 107 - Astronomical Phenomena & the Course of History - 3 hrs.
(To be properly registered, you must be enrolled in one LECT & one
LECD)

98844 (LECT) 12-12:50 F C3 LC V. Wexman, P. McCracken
(Same as ENGL 175, 98879 & FR 197, 98903)

98939 (LECT) 11-12:15 T 220 SH J. Ramsey, A. Licht
(Same as CL 198, 98967 & PHYS 198, 98994)

98948 (LECD) 11-12:15 R 220 SH J. Ramsey
(Same as CL 198, 98975 & PHYS 109, 99000)

(cont'd. on page 7)

Euthanasia

(cont'd. from page 5)

do not damage its goal to create a rational community. If we use the morals shared by the world's major religions and constitutions as a guide towards defining rights and responsibilities, we develop a mechanism to deal with euthanasia. Society has a responsibility to honor a person's rights up until the point where the importance of the ethics from which society exists outweighs the choices of the person. Take our example again: in this case, the person has waived his right to live, therefore superseding the moral guide we would ordinarily follow. Furthermore, society must honor his request and allow physician assisted suicide since further unbearable suffering in light of more acceptable options would be to advocate pain rather than happiness.

Roman Catholic philosophy believes that it is in the best interest of the person to not succumb to euthanasia.(2) Such a statement is difficult to accept since only the patient in accord with society is able to make the decision about life or death. There are no absolute laws that dictate that life is sacred - the ideal noted in the Commandments is a moral that should be followed in the absence of other extreme factors, such as a painful, end-stage, terminal illness. There are more than biological factors to consider in a person - mental, emotional, and spiritual needs must also be met. Physicians are qualified to decide that a person is waging a losing war against a disease, and that the probability of added benefit through extended life is very low. However, only the person can judge whether added life will allow him to reap mental, emotional, and spiritual benefits. If the answer is no, euthanasia should be considered.

In conclusion, both active and passive euthanasia are viable options. Possible counter-arguments, such as the absolute laws espoused by Roman Catholic philosophy do not stand since they reduce a person to mere biology. I would support euthanasia given that the prospect of a few days of life hold little possible biological, mental, emotional, and spiritual benefit for the person. Putting a person out of his misery must outweigh the prima facie moral repercussions of taking a person's life - the action must be valid based on the rights of a person and responsibility of society to honor those rights. Life is special, and it is up to each of us to see that we gain as much as possible out of it; however, there is a point where life can lose its wondrous meaning, and amount to only pain, suffering, and death.

Source Information:

- (1) Rachels, James. "Active and Passive Euthanasia." *New England Journal of Medicine* 292.2 (January 9, 1975): 78-80
- (2) Munson, Ronald. *Intervention and Reflection, Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1996.

Spotlight on Puneet

(cont'd. from page 6)

In addition, Puneet was recently elected Secretary of the 97-98 HCAB. Although no longer a member of the UIC Gospel Chori, Puneet avidly displays his love of singing with frequent late night renditions of Toni Braxton's "You're Making Me High" and Mariah Carey's "Vision of Love" much to the delight/dismay of his fellow Honors House residents. Watch out for Puneet at Karaoke Night on November 6th in the atrium! Another honor bestowed upon Puneet is the title of Honors House Men's Bathroom Representative!

It is evident that Puneet lives an interesting and hectic life. He uses Swami Bhashyananda of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society, as his spiritual guide and role model to help him through this life. The Swami, who unfortunately passed away last October, was someone who Puneet felt he could turn to in his times of need.

Thus reads the life of Puneet Shroff, a multi-faceted personality amidst us at UIC.



HON 107, cont'd.
98956 (LECD) 11-12:15 R 321 LH A Licht
(Same as CL 198, 98991 & PHYS 198, 87976)

#HON 108 - Human Nature: Biological & Social Perspectives - 3 hrs.
66061 2-3:15 TR 365 BSB S. Simpson, A. Orum, E. Pimental

*HON 111 - Experiences of the Divine in World Religions:
Mysticism & Eastern Religion - 3 hours
87987 10-10:50 MWF 313 LH N. Grossman
(Same as PHIL 150, 87993)

* *Fulfills Humanities requirement*
Fulfills Social Science requirement

Check the Honors College web
page for the full listing of
Spring 98 course offerings:
<http://www.hc.uic.edu>