

## “Reform in Chicago and Cook County”: Jesus “Chuy” Garcia Speaks at UIC

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Yuwa Edomwande  
Sophomore  
Biological Sciences

On October 21, 2015, the Department of Political Science, Political Science Student Association, UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, and the Honors College welcomed Cook County Commissioner, former mayoral candidate, and UIC alumnus Jesus “Chuy” Garcia as part of the annual “Future of Chicago” lecture series. The free and public lecture series aims to bring Chicago civic leaders to campus to discuss the current condition and future of the city.

Garcia is one of many noteworthy speakers of the series, including Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and 14th Ward Alderman Edward Burke. Garcia previously served as a member in the Illinois Senate and the Chicago City Council and currently serves as the floor leader of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Earlier this year, Garcia ran against Mayor Rahm Emanuel for mayor and pushed the race into the city’s first runoff election. Garcia’s lecture was focused on reform in Chicago.

Garcia defined four specific reform elements in city government: transparency, public accountability, public engagement, and diversity of administration. As Garcia defines it, transparency of a municipal government depends on how easily the public can obtain information. Public accountability can be determined by how elected officials respond to their electorate. Public engagement is particularly important to get an understanding of who and which parts of the government people have access to. Finally, diversity of administration shows how committed an administration is to “embracing all sectors of the city.”

With these elements in mind, Garcia discussed several mayoral administrations including Richard J. Daley’s administration and its characterization by the patronage system, and Harold Washington’s administration and



Commissioner Garcia speaks to UIC students.

its emphasis on empowerment and inclusiveness of minorities. He also mentioned Richard M. Daley’s administration and its commitment to racial diversity, pinstripe patronage, and large-scale privatization. He concluded his overview of Chicago politics with a critique of the current mayoral administration. In the evolution of the political machine in Chicago, Garcia did note that while there are several issues left to address in Chicago, Emanuel has new ideas to make the city more livable.

Commissioner Garcia mentioned that the Cook County Board of Commissioners has been successful at reducing the jail population of non-violent criminals in Cook County. He also talked about the need to tackle public health issues such as obesity, clean air and unemployment. Additionally, Garcia noted that although he did not become mayor, his campaign initiated conversations about issues that needed to be discussed.

UIC student Jauwan Hall liked that the commissioner spoke candidly about issues within the city, although he would have preferred for Garcia to say more about his particular vision for the future. Another UIC student, Chris Kooy, enjoyed hearing Commissioner Garcia’s thoughts on the current state of Chicago. He commented, “Meeting public servants always inspires me to strive to continue to go forward and work my hardest for the benefit of others.”

## A Note from the Dean



Ralph Keen  
Interim Dean of the  
Honors College

Dear Honors Community,

Welcome to the latest issue of the *Ampersand*! In this installment you will see some of what goes on in Burnham Hall and learn about some of the things that make the Honors College a special place. In addition to meeting our amazing student-athlete Mikaila Northern, and Pauline Maki, our 2014–15 Capstone Supervisor of the Year, you'll read about Debbie Patiño's important Capstone work, and the students who got to see neuroscience research in action at a national conference. And the new course in service learning for global health is just the latest in our efforts to connect academics with the world beyond our campus.

What do Honors College students do when they're not doing impressive work in every possible field? They're learning about (and maybe practicing) capoeira, the Brazilian martial art that involves dance and music. Or they might be hearing a prominent Chicago politician and former mayoral candidate as part of an ongoing series that brings students into contact with today's leaders. Maybe they're working on a student literary magazine like *Red Shoes Review*

(one of six written and edited, like this issue of the *Ampersand*, by Honors College students), or organizing a related event like an Open Mic evening. Or perhaps they're participating in a workshop about applying to graduate schools, or thinking about working for a major federal agency like the National Institutes of Health, as our recent graduate Alvin George does.

No publication fully captures the liveliness of the Honors College—the point at which talented students with every imaginable academic interest come together to grow, exchange ideas, and have fun. I hope as you read these stories you get a sense of the spirit that animates Burnham Hall, the pleasure that we all have in our work because of the students who make up our community.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Ralph Keen  
Interim Dean

### Upcoming Events and Scholarship Deadlines

#### Honors Capstone Progress Reports and Completion Forms Due

Dec. 4 • [www.uic.edu/honors/hars](http://www.uic.edu/honors/hars)

#### Honors College Convocation

Dec. 9 7:00PM • Illinois Room SCE

#### Honors Activity Completion Forms Due

Dec. 11 • [www.uic.edu/honors/hars](http://www.uic.edu/honors/hars)

#### Rotary International Fellowship

Jan. 4 • [www.rotarydistrict6450.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6450.org)

#### Humanity in Action

Jan. 7 • [www.humanityinaction.org](http://www.humanityinaction.org)

#### Rangel Graduate Fellowship

Jan. 13 • [www.rangelprogram.org](http://www.rangelprogram.org)

#### Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows Program

Jan. 15 • [www.carnegieendowment.org/about](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/about)

#### Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship

Jan. 15 • [www.woodrow.org/fellowships/pickering](http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/pickering)

#### DAAD-RISE Program

Jan. 15 • [www.daad.de/rise/en](http://www.daad.de/rise/en)

#### DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship

Jan. 31 • [www.daad.org/undergrad](http://www.daad.org/undergrad)

#### Woodrow Wilson STEM Teaching Fellowship

Jan. 31 • [www.woodrow.org/fellowships/ww-teaching-fellowships](http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships/ww-teaching-fellowships)

#### Udall Scholarship for commitment to Native Americans and environmental causes

Feb. 2 • [www.udall.gov](http://www.udall.gov)

#### Rangel International Affairs Summer Program

Feb. 3 • [www.rangelprogram.org](http://www.rangelprogram.org)

#### NSEP Boren Awards for International Study

Feb. 9 • [www.borenawards.org](http://www.borenawards.org)

#### Gilman Study Abroad Scholarship for Pell Grant recipients

Mar. 1 • [www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program](http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program)

## Mikailla Northern: Cartwheeling to Success



Sarah Kazi  
Sophomore  
Computer Science



Mikailla Northern  
Credit: Heather Socha

At the age of two, most of us were learning how to draw lines or climb stairs. Not Mikailla Northern, whose parents were already enrolling her in sports such as soccer, tee ball, and what would eventually become her true calling, gymnastics. A child bursting with energy, Northern channeled all her restlessness and talent into this sport. Now a freshman in the Honors College, she is a pre-nursing student and a member of the women's gymnastics team at UIC.

Northern invests over nineteen hours per week in her rigorous training schedule, but still finishes her assignments on time and even finds time to relax. She manages her schedule by completing as much of her schoolwork as possible in between classes and gymnastics meets. She credits her success in her harder classes to the tutors at UIC, and advises other

students "to get a lot of sleep, stay on top of your classes, and always take advantage of the tutors UIC offers." Northern also emphasizes the importance of time management, motivation, and hard work. Her parents and her former coach back in St. Louis inspired her to unlock her potential and become more confident.

While Northern invests a lot of time into her sport, her end goal is to become a nurse, so she can provide herself and her family with the security and comfort her parents worked hard to give her. Northern truly exemplifies a college student who pushes herself to do her best. She loves her sport, her classes, and living at UIC. She says she doesn't usually get overwhelmed by stress, but instead focuses on the rewarding aspects of the entire college experience, the endless opportunities in Chicago, and her future plans here at UIC.

## Capstone Advisor of the Year: Dr. Pauline Maki



Ghemaiya  
Bradley-Peterson  
Freshman  
Communication



Ricardo Ramirez  
Junior  
Math & Computer  
Science, Psychology



Dr. Pauline Maki  
Credit: UIC Photo Services

Dr. Pauline Maki, Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, is the 2014–2015 Honors College Capstone Advisor of the Year. Dr. Maki is the first recipient of this new award, which recognizes an Honors College Capstone advisor for their outstanding mentorship of Honors College students' research. A dedicated advisor for several Honors students, Dr. Maki was very humbled by the accolade.

Dr. Maki received her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Minnesota and has been devoted to the mission of UIC since 2002. Passionate about women's mental and cognitive health, Dr. Maki investigates sex differences in cognitive and psychiatric disorders.

As a Capstone advisor, she enjoys mentoring students as they conduct independent projects after she and the student work together to identify a project tailored to the student's goals and passions. To further their research experience, Dr. Maki also encourages her students to present at the UIC Student Research Forum and other nationally recognized conferences. Currently, several Honors students

work in her laboratory, forming a "community of scholars with very similar missions." In fact, she has even published papers with former Honors College students and still mentors them even after they graduate.

In addition to serving as a Faculty Fellow and Capstone Advisor, Dr. Maki is also involved in the Honors College in other ways. She taught a subunit of HON 201: Foundations for the Future and is currently working on developing a closer pipeline between the Honors College and the UIC College of Medicine so that students have more information regarding the M.D./Ph.D. program.

As advice to Honors students, Dr. Maki recommends that students constantly monitor their interests and have a sense of grit. The Capstone Advisor of the Year award has meant a great deal to Dr. Maki, especially since it was chosen by the Honors College student body. A recent Honors College alumnus expressed, "Dr. Maki has inspired me to continue to do research throughout medical school, and her lessons will help me throughout my career."



Rachel Nally  
Freshman  
Biology

## Dear Freshman Friend

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*Dear Freshman Friend,*

Midterm exams did not go too well, and I am really worried about final exams. What can I do to make the most out of the semester?

From,  
*Stressed Out Student*

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*Dear Stressed Out Student,*

It is that time of the year again when we are preparing for exams. In a way, these exams are the most nerve-racking simply because we are unsure of what to expect—but fear not, my friend.

If you are enrolled in a science course, I recommend heading over to the Science Learning Center in Science and Engineering South, where you can get help from other students and teaching assistants. I have also found it very helpful to get together with fellow students to help each other study. If you are looking for somewhere quiet, there are often rooms in Lincoln Hall and Douglas Hall that are sometimes empty and can be used for your studying needs.

There are many great resources online, so search for flashcards or practice tests related to your subject. Don't forget to utilize the resources your instructor may include on Blackboard, as well.

If you did not do well on your midterms, consider this a learning experience and reevaluate your study habits. Hard work will help you get the grade that you want, and stressing out will only make it more difficult for you to focus. If you are feeling particularly overwhelmed while studying, take a small break. Brew yourself some tea and listen to calming music that will help you relax but not fall asleep. So take a deep breath and move forward.

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." —Mark Twain

—*Freshman Friend*

## Think Global, Act Local: Global Health Service Learning Honors Seminar

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Raymond Baniewicz  
Junior  
Teaching of English



Students in the Global Health Service Learning Program

As the Director of Service at the UIC Center for Global Health, Dr. Stacey Chamberlain recognizes the importance of engaging students around the idea of service. This led her to design and teach the HON 201 seminar Think Global, Act Local: Global Health Service Learning Program, which encourages students to build careers focused on the principles of social accountability and global citizenship. In a health context, this involves students becoming professionals who are committed to addressing health disparities through their work. As the semester winds down, Dr. Chamberlain hopes that her students have gained skills to be used for project planning, teamwork, and evaluation, which will help them to successfully engage with their communities. Such knowl-

edge will allow them to help the public in ways that are both appropriate and sustainable.

The Global Health Service Learning seminar is the only HON 201 course that offers a service learning component. Students work alongside community organizations to do work that is valuable beyond the university. Whereas most college courses tend to focus on the theoretical, students in Dr. Chamberlain's seminar get a significant amount of practical experience. Not only do they learn about the challenges that global health service organizations face, but they also work in teams to overcome such obstacles and make an impact that is both measurable and sustainable. In short, Dr. Chamberlain ensures that her students are taking the ideas learned in class and applying them to real-world situations.

## Capoeira: An Art Form of History and Culture



Sanjana Srinivasan  
Freshman  
Neuroscience

When I walked barefoot into the *roda*, or capoeira circle at the Interactive Capoeira Workshop, a Chicago Signature Honors Programming event, I was surprised to see students engaging in moves that resemble break-dancing! Capoeira, commonly thought of as a type of martial arts, is actually much more—it is a conversation of movements; a combination of rhythm, music, and self-defense; an art form with a rich historical and cultural significance. “Capoeira is a response to race and racism that came out of Brazil and out of the enslavement of African people. It is a liberation movement, in which the Africans used it as a means to defy the space that they were being framed into in terms of slavery,” said Dr. Vernon Lindsay, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Teaching and Mentoring and capoeira instructor.

Dr. Lindsay incorporates his capoeira training into his honors core, Honors 127: The Art of Human Expression in the United States and Brazil. The course “[explores] the impact of race and the enslavement of Africans in relationship to poetry, music, dance and self-defense.” Dr. Lindsay began his capoeira training nine years ago when a local flyer led him to his first capoeira class. “I found out that [capoeira] was a martial art, and that it has some history in slavery in terms of African people in Brazil



Students who participated in the capoeira Chicago Signature Honors Program event pose for a group picture in the capoeira circle, called the *roda*.



Students learn capoeira during the capoeira Chicago Signature Honors Program.

practicing it as a form of self-defense. And I was like ‘This is it!’ So, I started training, and I even went to Brazil. I’ve been learning it ever since,” he said.

Dr. Lindsay, who is now a *cordão azul* (blue belt) in capoeira, taught us basic techniques including the staple movement, the *ginga*, along with blocks, kicks, and even cartwheels. After one and a half hours of training, I was able to test my cartwheeling and on-the-spot movements in the *roda*, fighting a more experienced capoeira learner. It was very difficult to react spontaneously and to balance my movements with those of the person I was fighting, but I’m proud of my first attempt!

We also learned about the traditional instruments and chants that accompany a capoeira fight including *berimbaus* (a single-string percussion instrument) and *pandeiros* (a tambourine-like instrument). “You’re always learning something, you’re always being stretched physically,” Dr. Lindsay said. At the end of the day, I went home exhausted from the physical activity, but with appreciation for the art form of capoeira.

## Humans of the Honors College



Lucia Whalen  
Junior  
English

Portraits and interviews from  
Burnham Hall



Lori Baptista, Director of the African American  
Cultural Center

### Lori Baptista

*What inspires you when you feel creatively blocked?*

“Going for a walk outside. Sometimes we get stuck just sitting in front of our computers or devices, and so if I feel stuck or blocked I need to get some fresh air. I’ll put my electronics down and just go for a walk, trying to be fully present where I am and trying to come back to what I’m doing with a clear head.”

### Tania Sosa

*Advice for someone living on campus:*

“If you live on campus, don’t stay in your room. Definitely get involved and communicate with people and just get out of your room. Otherwise, you’re going to miss a lot.”

*What’s an unexpected passion you’ve developed since studying at UIC?*

“An unexpected passion? I discovered an internship called the UIC Heritage Garden, which made me understand my love for gardening, environmental sustainability and social justice, which is something that I did not expect to happen.”



Tania Sosa, junior, psychology

### Ana Ongtengco

*If you could take a Ferris Bueller day, what would you do?*

“I would go swimming, for sure. I would do random swimming in the lake. And then maybe eat a bunch of food. I would eat a bunch of funnel cakes and stuff, and then sleep. I would sleep in until like 2.”

*What advice do you have for new freshmen?*

“Stay on top of your work. Once you find out about an assignment, get it done as soon as possible and don’t keep putting it off because then everything will pile up. Start studying ahead of time for exams. And find a group of people who you can study with and ask questions. Find a good study group for your classes.”



Ana Ongtengco, freshman, bioengineering



Antonio Jackson-Lucas, junior, psychology

### Antonio Jackson-Lucas

#### *What's your ideal rainy day?*

"I like to watch anime...I would probably be sitting around watching anime. That's my ideal rainy day. I'm not the person to go dancing in the rain—just anime and chill."

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### Tiana Johnsen

#### *What advice do you have for a student coming to UIC from far away?*

"The same would hold true if someone were leaving UIC to pursue further education say, in Hawaii. Approach it with an open mind and remember that everything is temporary. If you can help it, know that you're not committing the rest of your life to this big change. If you approach it from that perspective, where your destiny is in your control, and you can think of it as an adventure. Try it out for a bit, and if it doesn't work out and you've prepared adequately, you can make a change. You don't have to stay in anything forever.

"Go with the best of intentions and give it your all. That's why I make Chicago work for me. It's a beautiful city. "



Hawaiian girl cutout stand-in for Tiana Johnsen, Business Manager of the Honors College

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### Margav Soni and Adil Siddique

"We know each other from high school, and we're both majoring in neuroscience. He's [Margav] going to be a dentist and I'm [Adil] going to be a doctor, but hopefully we'll open a clinic together. We always knew we wanted to do something in the healthcare setting."



Left: Margav Soni, sophomore, neuroscience  
Right: Adil Siddique, sophomore, neuroscience

## Society for Neuroscience Conference



Meghana Yerrapothu  
Senior  
Neuroscience

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) conference took place from October 17th to 21st at McCormick Place. SfN is an organization consisting of physicians and scientists who are working to better understand the nervous system. The annual conference takes place every year in a different region of the United States, and this year marked the first time since 2009 that Chicago hosted. Over 30,000 scientists attended the event to present the most recent neuroscience research, form international collaborations, and explore groundbreaking technologies.

Many Honors College students were able to attend SfN thanks to financial support from the Laboratory of Integrative Neuroscience (LIN), which covered the conference costs for interested undergraduate neuroscience majors. LIN professors and Honors College Faculty Fellows Dr. Robert Paul Malchow and Dr. Mitchell Roitman, along with Director of Programs and Instructional Support for the Department of Biological Sciences Suzanne Harrison, arranged this unprecedented opportunity. Dr. Malchow said, "I just thought it was a wonderful potential opportunity to introduce our undergraduate neuroscience majors to the excitement of discoveries taking place currently in the field from people actually doing cutting edge research."

Baasit Jamal, an Honors College student who attended, said that the experience was one of the best parts of his undergraduate career. He said, "Going to SfN opened my eyes to just how immensely varied [neuroscience] truly is. I knew that there was plenty of variety, but SfN turned that vague idea into a clearer picture of just how much goes on." The amount of innovation in the field also captured the attention of various scientists. Dr. Roitman stated, "There is so much science presented at SfN that, each year when I consider current and future projects in my own lab, I can attend scientific presentations that utilize new technical approaches or address questions that are related to those that my lab is asking. So I'm able to learn about potential stumbling blocks as well as whether I need to revisit my own



Society for Neuroscience Conference

study design. I suppose all this boils down to seeing science that informs my own research."

Science is built on teamwork and discoveries—there is so much that happens in the scientific community on a daily basis. SfN allows the neuroscience community to collaborate and share progress, questions, and lines of inquiry. Honors College senior neuroscience major Sarah Lee reflected, "I was able to see the trajectory of a neuroscience research career, and I am inspired by the scientists I met from around the world."

## Capstone Spotlight: Undocumented Students at UIC

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Michelle Farler  
Sophomore  
Kinesiology



Debbie Patiño with the Fearless  
Undocumented Alliance

Debbie Patiño, an Honors College senior majoring in psychology and sociology, draws on the diversity of UIC for her Capstone. Specifically, Patiño is writing about the undocumented students' rights movement, from past to present. While this is a growing national movement, Patiño is focusing on Chicago and UIC in particular.

The inspiration for this project began when Patiño became involved with the Fearless Undocumented Alliance, a UIC student organization focused on supporting undocumented students financially, academically, and mentally. Patiño felt a strong connection to this organization due to her own family history and was inspired by the activist mission. Her involvement deepened her passion for this cause, and her Capstone advisor encouraged her to pursue the topic for her Capstone.

Patiño's project includes the stories of individuals in the undocumented youth movements

in Chicago, including Jorge Mena, a current UIC graduate student involved in the formation of the Immigrant Youth Justice League; Yaxal Sobrevilla, a 2014 Honors College graduate and current organizer with Organized Communities Against Deportations; and Lulu Martinez, a previous UIC student who was a member of the "Dream Nine Activists". Patiño will also write about current legislation and proposed bills such as the ACCESS Bill, which would allow undocumented Illinois students meeting certain requirements to apply for state-funded financial aid.

The movement to improve the lives of undocumented students is fiercely passionate and inspires Patiño. With the intention to continue her career in immigrant rights, this Capstone is only the beginning of Patiño's exploration of the issues and injustices experienced by undocumented students, particularly those at UIC.

## Applying to Graduate School in the Humanities: Insights from Dean Keen

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Guarav Agnihotri  
Sophomore  
Neuroscience



Dean Keen discusses the  
graduate school application  
process.

"What makes a competitive graduate school applicant?" Professor Ralph Keen, Interim Dean of the Honors College and Professor of History, provided insight to this question in the October 20th Honors College Fall Professional Development Series event "Applying to Graduate School in the Humanities." Dean Keen began by laying out the pros and cons of pursuing graduate study and then dove into the logistics of the application process, strongly suggesting that students enter it "as a researcher." He advised applicants to take initiative to find the right graduate program that fits their needs, as well as the faculty member whose work engages them the most. "Be bold" and "contact professors beforehand to demonstrate an interest in their program," Dean Keen pointed out. It's im-

portant for an applicant to get a sense of how well he or she will collaborate with the faculty.

In the application itself, there are typically four main components: the writing sample, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and GRE scores/transcript. According to Dean Keen, the writing sample is considered the most important because that is where the applicant's creativity, ideas, and "quality of mind" are evaluated; it is the "audition for the program." Attendee Rucha Shah, a junior majoring in sociology, said, "Dean Keen was quite thorough and was able to share many personal experiences about the application process. His advice can be beneficial to any applicant to graduate school in the humanities."

## Focus on a (Postbac) Fellow: Alvin George at the National Institutes of Health



Alvin George  
NIH Postbac  
Research Fellow  
2015 B.S. Biochemistry



Trekking through the  
Appalachian Mountains

Already over a third of my time at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland is completed, and I am in disbelief that it has been over six months since I walked through campus as a UIC student and served as an editor for this very publication. Following graduation, I traveled to the NIH to conduct biomedical research as a Postbaccalaureate Research Fellow and Intramural Research Training Award recipient. Specifically, the laboratory I work in studies fluid and electrolyte transport in mammalian exocrine salivary glands to elucidate effective interventions that combat xerostomia (dry mouth), estimated to affect one out of every four or five individuals in the United States.

The NIH is the nation's medical research agency and a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Many may recognize the name after the NIH Clinical Center admitted two patients who contracted Ebola this past year, or through its Extramural Research Program which helps fund numerous laboratories throughout the nation. The Intramural Research Program primarily situated in Bethesda, however, makes the NIH the largest biomedical research institution in the world. Through combining basic, translational, and clinical medical research, the NIH is able to investigate the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare disorders. Indeed, having supported over 100 Nobel Prize winners, the NIH is where discoveries can translate into medical advances. In addition to laboratory work, the NIH facilitates research via other means, such as offering career and professional development workshops, opportunities to give oral and poster presentations, trainings on properly writing research manuscripts, graduate school courses, shadowing opportunities, animal handling workshops, conferences, talks from Nobel Prize winners, and much more.

I decided to spend a year conducting research after graduation because I wanted to expand my study of epithelial physiology that I was first exposed to while at UIC. Moreover, the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area offers a host of cultural activities, festivals, and out-



Monitoring specific protein activity in cells

door recreation that is generously flanked by countryside and the Appalachian Mountains. My project involves using mice to examine several pathways significant in saliva production and suggests potential methods to alleviate the symptoms of salivary gland pathophysiology, even as far as using a specific wavelength of light to stimulate saliva.

Undoubtedly, it was through my study of biochemistry, involvement in the Honors College, and immersion into the laboratory of Honors College Fellow Dr. Mrinalini Rao in the UIC Department of Physiology and Biophysics, that I was able to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to attain my current position. My graduate student mentor and recipient of the UIC Undergraduate Mentoring Award, Jada Domingue, was also influential in instilling the confidence, motivation, and patience essential to working in the sciences. Truly, UIC and the Honors College have prepared me well for my work since graduation. After working at the NIH, I will be attending medical school, where I also hope to engage in research projects.

Applications to the NIH Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award program are accepted year-round and can fund one- or two-year positions. If you are interested and would like to learn more about this program, please visit: [https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/postbac\\_irta](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/postbac_irta).

## Red Shoes Review



Christine Rachel Joseph, Senior, Bioengineering

The *Red Shoes Review*, a popular Honors College publication, is the only undergraduate literary and arts magazine at UIC. We publish an annual issue of student essays, paintings, photographs, collages, poems, short stories, and other student-created artistic pieces. The history of this publication is dynamic—the magazine has been up-and-running in some form since the 1960s, with a few hiatuses. As the current editor-in-chief, I have witnessed the slow growth of this magazine in the past few years from a primarily literary force to something far greater.

Last year was our most successful and far-reaching yet! In addition to publishing our yearly magazine, we provided an outlet for all kinds of artists across campus through art auctions, art shows, open mics, and interactive displays. During the 2014–2015 academic year, we raised over \$600 through our annual auction, packed a four-hour open mic (a *Red Shoes* record), and created an immense painted mural with the help of a day's worth of students passing by the quad. We also hit a new record with over 100 literature and art submissions.

This year, we not only hope to match the success of the last, but also surpass it. Our most recent event was Open Mic Night at Powell's Bookstore located off Halsted and Roosevelt. Throughout the course of the evening, we had a collection of remarkably diverse acts, including rap, stand-up comedy, spoken word, piano, ukulele, parody, and original songs. No matter the medium, it was a beautiful sight to see artists sharing information, laughing, and connecting with one another.

Recently, we were even approached by a worldwide student media platform set to launch at the end of this year. Their aim is to create a fair and honest media outlet that allows every article published in it an equal chance of being read by people around the world. They have asked us to share our magazine with them, bringing our student-driven work to a global audience.



Top: Our last quad day in the spring.

Bottom: Our open-mic night at Powell's Bookstore.

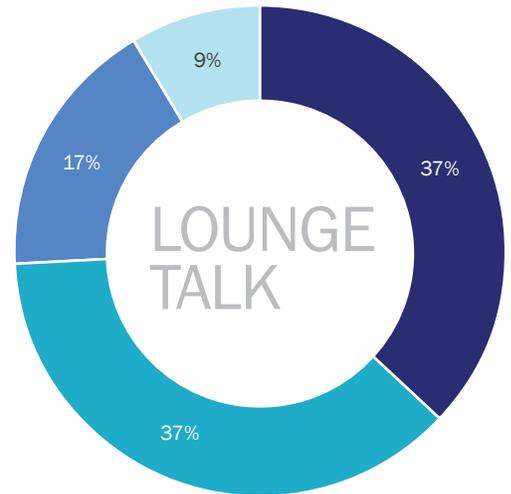
The *Red Shoes Review* began with the simple goal of bringing more arts to the forefront of our college experience. Now, we are also welcoming submissions that previously may not have fit into the bounds of our magazine. We are looking for more mixed media; unconventional poetry; and for the first time ever, lyrics or sheet music submissions. We hope to embed the audio files into our online edition, as well as put them up on our new worldwide platform. *Red Shoes Review* will accept submissions to [uic.redshoes@gmail.com](mailto:uic.redshoes@gmail.com) until December 31, 2015—we encourage all writers and artists to submit!

## Lounge Talk: What's your favorite study place?



Margav Soni  
Sophomore  
Neuroscience

With the many computer labs, cafes, and quiet study spaces on campus, UIC students have their pick of place when it comes to finding somewhere to be productive. As a commuter myself, I am always looking for a quiet spot to focus. I surveyed 35 students in the Honors College Student Lounge to determine favorite go-to places for getting work done.



■ Library ■ Honors College Student Lounges  
■ Douglas Hall ■ Commuter Lounge

### HCAB Update

The Fall HCAB Student and Faculty Luncheon was a huge success with one of the largest turnouts ever! Over 470 people attended and enjoyed catering from Roti Mediterranean Grill while mingling with fellow members of the Honors College. HCAB gives thanks to all of those who attended or volunteered their time to make the Luncheon such a successful event. We are happy to help build community throughout the college.

HCAB is still holding Wednesdays with HCAB in Burnham Hall every Wednesday at 5PM. Come on by for a different theme every week.

—Liz Stark, HCAB President



HCAB members at the Faculty-Student Luncheon

### Mission Statement

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

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