



THE AMPERSAND

Working for Tomorrow: 2015 Lincoln Laureate Taylor Casino

Table of Contents

- 2 Dean's Note
- 2 Upcoming Events and Scholarships
- 3 Freshman Friend
- 3 Study Abroad
- 4-5 Fall Graduation
- 6 Meet Associate Dean Murphy
- 6 TEDx
- 7 Capstone Spotlight
- 7 Focus on a Fellow:
Dr. Teresa Orenic
- 8 Lounge Talk
- 8 HCAB Update



Michelle Farler
Sophomore
Kinesiology



Taylor Casino

Each year, the prestigious Lincoln Academy of Illinois awards the Lincoln Student Laureate to one graduating senior from each four-year college and university in Illinois. The honor recognizes students who demonstrated excellence throughout their four years both in and out of the classroom. UIC had the privilege of recognizing Taylor Casino, an Honors College student majoring in marketing, this 2015–2016 school year.

The Lincoln Student Laureate is based on recommendations and comments from the student's professors and advisors. In November, all 60 recipients were invited to Springfield to receive the honor. Despite the different schools and backgrounds, Casino noted how truly similar the recipients were, as they all shared a deep appreciation of their universities through their involvement in academic and extracurricular activities.

In her freshman year at UIC, Casino became involved with the University Ambassadors, a group that is responsible for professional development, networking opportunities for members, and school spirit. Casino attributes the emergence of her leadership experience to this organization. She began her University Ambassador career as a general member and became more involved as Head of Professional Development. In this role, Casino prepared presentations and organized speaking events focused on how to become successful in the workplace. Casino went on to develop her leadership abilities as Head of Advocacy Committee and President of the student organization, where she continues to help younger students develop their professional skills.

In addition to these leadership positions, Casino served as Senior Associate Orientation Director. Her responsibilities included interviewing, hiring, and training the 30 student Orientation Leaders who helped welcome approximately 3,000 incoming students this past summer. This leadership position allowed Casino to gain real world executive experience in the familiar environment of UIC Orientation. Casino remarked



Taylor Casino and other Lincoln Student Laureates

that she enjoyed having students approach her during the school year and praise their orientation experience. Also a member of the College of Business, she is involved in UIC's Business Scholars Program, through which she works with the other Business Scholars to create an enriching environment for networking and professional growth. Casino is among a unique and elite group of students who continuously strive to make the most of their educational and leadership experiences here at UIC. Her dedication and hard work is proven time and time again.

As graduation draws closer, Casino reflects on this award and her time at UIC, as she plans for the future. Hoping to gain new perspectives, she plans to take a year off after graduation to travel throughout Japan. However, she is also open to other possibilities and looks forward to where the next few years will take her. Casino encourages fellow students to take advantage of all opportunities that come their way. Taking to heart a phrase a previous supervisor told her, "Life is 5% of what you plan, and 95% of how you react."

A Note from the Dean



Ralph Keen
Interim Dean of the
Honors College

Dear Friends of the Honors College,

There's something about the middle of spring semester: midterms out of the way, nicer weather, planning for summer work or a fall semester still months away. Here in Burnham Hall, we're getting ready for the Class of 2020 and preparing to send off the Class of 2016. Capstone projects, conversations about graduate programs, and news of Honors students receiving prestigious awards fill our days.

In this issue of the *Ampersand*, you'll see a little of what's been happening recently in the Honors College. Meet both our new associate dean, Timothy Murphy, who's been involved with the work of the Honors College for years, and Faculty Fellow Teresa Vales Orenic, who serves the students of the Honors College in so many ways. In this issue we also feature this year's Lincoln Academy Laureate, Taylor Casino, whom many of us know from her work at Orientation and for the University Ambassadors. We have a fascinating

update from Sachin Patel about his study abroad term in The Netherlands. And Tala Al-Khaled explores issues related to the journalist's obligation to capture a historical event with a camera. In addition, we have a record of the first winter convocation of the Honors College, a tradition which, along with the December UIC commencement, is off to a good start.

These individuals, their talents and interests and experiences, are just a little of what makes the Honors College a special place. All of our students, faculty, and staff contribute to this College and make being part of it a privilege and a pleasure. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Ralph Keen
Interim Dean

Upcoming Events and Scholarship Deadlines

Top Scholarships Info Session

Mar. 15, 12:00PM • 121 Burnham Hall

Research Presentation and Poster Preparation Workshop

Mar. 18, 3:00PM • 121 Burnham Hall

Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship Deadline

Mar. 20

Chicago Signature Honors Program: The Flick

Mar. 23, 7:30PM • Steppenwolf Theater

Mock Research Poster Presentation Session

Mar. 29, 3:00PM • 121 Burnham Hall

Hispanic Scholarship Fund General Scholarship Deadline

Mar. 30

Teaching Abroad Scholarship Info Session

Mar. 31, 12:00PM • 2550 University Hall

McKelvie Scholarship Deadline

Apr. 1

Top Scholarships Info Session

Apr. 6, 12:00PM • 2550 University Hall

HCAB Faculty-Student Luncheon

Apr. 6, 11:30AM–1:30PM • Burnham Hall

Fulbright Week

Apr. 11–15 • ossp.uic.edu
Join OSSP for a week of informative Fulbright sessions! Fulbright offers students the opportunity to study/research or teach English abroad.

UIC Student Research Forum

Apr. 12, 1:00PM–5:00PM • UIC Forum

Honors College Publications Release Party

Apr. 13, 4:00PM • 109 Burnham Hall

Capstone General Information Workshop

Apr. 14, 3:00PM • 121 Burnham Hall

Chicago Signature Honors Program: Richard III

Apr. 14, 8:00PM • Steppenwolf Theater

Dear Freshman Friend



Rachel Nally
Freshman
Biology

Dear Freshman Friend,

What should I do this summer to help me prepare for next year?

This summer is a great time to get started with activities you did not have time for during the academic year. The Honors College can help students get in contact with numerous job and volunteering opportunities. For example, meeting with your Honors College advisor can help you decide what you would like to do with your time off. Don't forget to read the Honors College announcements for information about both volunteer and paid research positions, through which students can obtain hands-on experiences and begin growing their professional networks.

Another option may be to get a job or start volunteering. Job experience can look great on graduate or professional school applications, so now is the time to begin deciding what type of

experiences would suit your interests. For pre-health majors, this could mean volunteering at a hospital or starting an internship.

If you feel as though you have a heavy workload coming in the fall, it may be a good idea to consider taking a summer course. Taking even one class over the summer can significantly reduce your schedule for the upcoming year, especially if your classes are difficult.

The best thing you can do this summer is prepare for the future. This could mean taking a class or volunteering. However, it is the summer, so it is also important to have fun and enjoy the weather.

"Don't count the days, make the days count."

— Muhammad Ali

—Freshman Friend

A Semester in Amsterdam



Yuwa Edomwande
Sophomore
Biological Sciences



Patel in Europe

Where does a passionate, budding law student go to further his interest in the field? For UIC senior Sachin Patel, the perfect place was Amsterdam, Holland. Patel—a dual degree student in history and biological sciences who plans to attend law school—decided to study abroad after his sister spoke highly of her experience. He chose to participate in the IES Amsterdam Law & Criminology program from August 16 to December 18, 2015.

Patel lived in a dorm designated for both Dutch and international students located in a southern neighborhood of the city called Uilenstede. He enrolled at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where he took three international law courses and a Dutch history course. His favorite class was a course that compared Dutch and American law, highlighting differences in the "legal culture" around the world.

Outside the classroom, Patel explored the city, which he described as "incredibly picturesque." He observed "flowers, boats, and beautifully built homes" alongside canals circling the city. Patel and his friends took full advantage of the

public events in the city. From traditional cheese markets to EDM concerts, there was always something fun to do. He explored the Anne Frank House museum, a classical orchestra performance, and several art markets. One memorable experience was when he and his friends got lost and turned a 25 minute bike excursion into a three hour ride! Though the bulk of his study abroad semester was spent in Amsterdam, Patel also visited other European cities such as Munich, Barcelona, and Antwerp.

Patel's study abroad experience left a lasting impression on him. He acknowledged that it's important for students—often too busy with jobs and schoolwork—to be open to attending different events, whether in Chicago or abroad. Patel urges other students who are thinking about studying abroad to "just do it." He left the Netherlands with a diverse group of lifelong friends, and his interactions have taught him how to represent himself, how to learn outside the classroom, and how to be more independent but aware of the world around him. Patel raved, "It is, hands down, the best experience of my life."

December 9, 2015

FALL 2015 HONORS COLLEGE CONVOCATION

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Bette Bottoms

Student Addresses
Magdalena Mastalerz
Adriana Perez

First ever fall
convocation!
55 Graduates

“Many of us come from diverse backgrounds, and many of us are first-generation college students. We all know a different struggle, and we all know about sacrifice, dedication, and reliance. When living in a day and age where a disparity in higher education often stifles differences, the Honors College environment has been welcoming and empathetic, allowing our differences to flourish.”

—Adriana Perez

“Most importantly, we learned that we are always capable of doing much more than we think we can. As freshmen, we may have doubted our abilities to reach our goals. Thanks to our support system in the Honors College, we opened doors we never knew we could open, and we pushed ourselves further than we thought we could go.”

—Magdalena Mastalerz



Meet the New Associate Dean: Dr. Timothy Murphy



Guarav Agnihotri
Sophomore
Neuroscience



Dr. Timothy Murphy

This spring semester, Dr. Timothy Murphy joined the Honors College staff as the new Associate Dean. Murphy is already a familiar face around the Honors College; he has been an Honors College Faculty Fellow for 18 years and has taught HON140: Ethics, Nature, and the Human Body for the past 10 years. In his new role as Associate Dean, Murphy will work with the Honors College curriculum, the Faculty Fellows program, Honors Capstone projects, and the Honors College publications.

In Murphy's HON 140 course, students explore the ethics of human body modifications and genetic engineering. Murphy's discussion-based class and teaching methodology have been praised by several of his students: Kruti Merchant noted that Murphy constantly "exercised our minds and challenged our intuitions." "Dr. Murphy truly developed [our] dialogue and critical thinking skills," added Ben McClerklin. Murphy has also conducted mock medical school interviews through the Honors College Professional Development Series.

Murphy has been a Professor of Philosophy in the Biomedical Sciences for medical students at

UIC for over twenty-five years. He teaches ethics and professional standards alongside issues such as patient confidentiality, end-of-life care, and human sexuality. Murphy received his doctorate in philosophy from Boston College and has published in a variety of professional journals. Moreover, Murphy has authored or been an editor of nine books, including the recent *Ethics, Sexual Orientation, and Choices about Children* (The MIT Press). His research interests include areas of genetics, assistive reproductive treatments, research ethics, and the relationship between sexuality and medicine.

Murphy is excited to serve as the Associate Dean. To him, the Honors College serves as a "small liberal arts college in a big university," providing an "academic home" for students where they can be connected to a plethora of resources to enhance their undergraduate experience. As Associate Dean, Murphy's overarching goal is to increase the "motivation and challenges" for Honors College students to mature personally and academically. He welcomes students to come to him for any advice or guidance they may need.

Rethinking the System: TEDxUoflChicago

On Friday, April 8th, TEDxUoflChicago will hold its fourth annual TEDx event at the James Stukel Towers Events Center. TED, which stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, is an internationally recognized nonprofit organization that famously hosts speakers of a variety of backgrounds and specialties for the purpose of spreading inspiring ideas and stories. TED created the TEDx initiative in order to allow hubs of knowledge, such as UIC, the opportunity to bring TED conferences to intellectual communities.

This year's TEDxUoflChicago event unites speakers under the theme "Rethink the System" in order to "spark meaningful conversations and encourage the audience to rethink traditional notions on a variety of topics ranging from science to social inequality," says Honors College senior and curator Nirmal Shah.

Shah and co-curator senior Anil Sharma have been leading a team of 13 students to organize the event since September 2015. The bulk of the

work comes from arranging speakers, advertising to the student body, and seeking sponsorships from various organizations to fund the event.

Featured speakers include UIC Professor of African American Studies and Educational Policy Studies David Stovall, author Jeanne Bishop, environmental activist Kim Wasserman, emergency physician Dr. Amy Ho, spoken word artist Ken Gonzales, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine professor Dr. Catherine Wallace, and PhD student at the UIC Electronic Visualization Laboratory Victor Mateevitsi. A few of the topics that will be discussed include Critical Race Theory, gun regulation, immigration rights, and gay rights. The ultimate goal of TED is to empower students by creating thought-provoking conversation on topics that may slip through the cracks in mainstream discussion.

Tickets for the TEDxUoflChicago event will be available on March 18th. For more information, please visit tedxatuic.com.

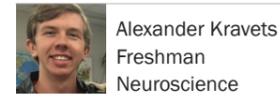


Sarah Lee
Senior
Neuroscience



TEDxUoflChicago Executive Board

The Ethics of Photojournalism



Alexander Kravets
Freshman
Neuroscience



Tala Al-Khaled

For recent Honors College alumna Tala Al-Khaled, the Capstone project allowed her to merge her personal passion with intellectual curiosity. She graduated in the fall semester with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in biological sciences, and she will attend the UIC College of Medicine next fall.

Inspired by her own personal travels across Europe and the Middle East, Al-Khaled investigated the ethics of photojournalism. Specifically, she researched photographic manipulation in the context of national news reports and war zone crises. Ultimately, her research served to answer the question: to what extent should photojournalists be bound by ethical guidelines?

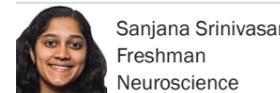
Through a critical lens, Al-Khaled evaluated published images in an expansive literature review. Upon finishing the Capstone, Al-Khaled became more aware of subtle issues that may allow photographers to distort the reality of the situation they are capturing. In her findings, Al-

Khaled highlighted issues such as the staging of photographs and the use of editing software that ultimately affects the credibility of the reporting source. Al-Khaled concluded that photojournalists should strictly follow ethical guidelines in order to properly inform the public and avoid misrepresentation of the subject of the photograph.

Al-Khaled's passion for photography inspired her to select a topic in photojournalism for her Capstone. As she describes her passion, "The ability to capture moments from unseen perspectives drew me in. I was keen on being behind the lens, as it is a challenging, yet thrilling and empowering experience."

This project is memorable for Al-Khaled, especially as a future physician. In April, through the Syrian American Medical Society, Al-Khaled intends to bring her photojournalistic insight to a Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan where she may combine her love of medicine and photography.

Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Teresa Orenic



Sanjana Srinivasan
Freshman
Neuroscience



Dr. Teresa Orenic

Honors College Faculty Fellow Dr. Teresa Orenic mentors six Honors students and conducts admissions interviews for prospective students. In addition, the Associate Professor of Biological Sciences is also committed to diverse programming in the Honors College.

Orenic, along with Dr. David Stone and Dr. Donald Morrison, coordinates the National Science Foundation (NSF)/Biology Research Program at UIC, a program that provides research opportunities for Honors College students to complete their Capstones. Once students learn about faculty research in the biological sciences through an informational session, students apply to a lab of their choice. Selected students then read the literature that is pertinent to their project and ultimately conduct research in the faculty member's lab for the next two years.

"[The program] worked out very well. We have yearly poster sessions, and students can present their Capstone project during these sessions, which will fulfill their Capstone requirement," Orenic said.

Orenic is also the co-chair of the Diversity Committee with Dr. Nancy Cirillo. The commit-

tee's efforts include developing programs and activities that enhance student, faculty, and staff experience and promote interactions among diverse groups within the UIC community. To advance these goals, the committee is working with student members to develop a page on the Honors College website devoted to diversity and establish an Honors College student diversity committee. The committee also hosts coffee hours, which recently featured discussions about social justice and law enforcement. The committee has also partnered with HCAB to introduce more academic programming into "Wednesdays with HCAB." Once a month, the committee co-hosts a presentation and coffee hour along with HCAB to discuss contemporary issues.

While Orenic is passionate about her varied involvement in the Honors College, her favorite part about being a Faculty Fellow is getting to know the students. "I love meeting all of you guys. That's my favorite part, interacting with all of the students and getting to see all of the talent that UIC is bringing in," Orenic remarked.

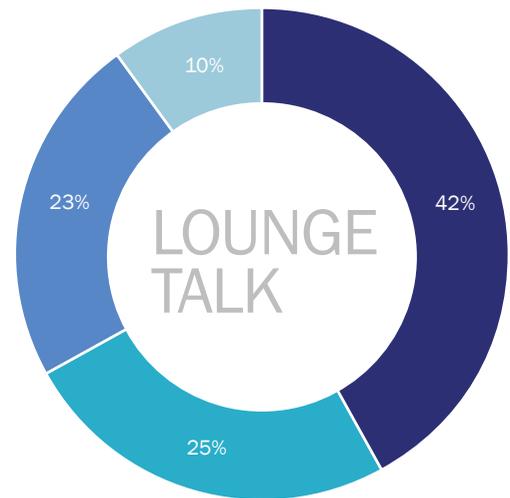
Lounge Talk



Adil Siddique
Junior
Neuroscience

What distinguishes many Honors College students is not only their academic excellence, but also their commitment to the community and volunteerism. Even on holiday breaks, many students find special activities to fill their time. With Spring Break coming up, some students may be wondering what they can do with their time off, whether that is volunteering, going on a trip, or just relaxing and getting recharged for the rest of the semester. For some ideas, I surveyed 40 Honors College students in the lounge with the question: What did you do over Winter Break?

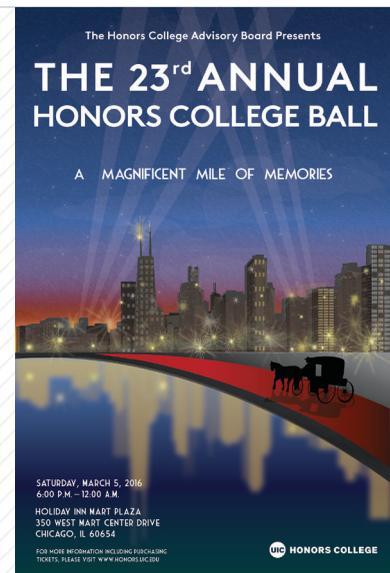
- Stayed at Home
- Volunteered Locally
- Traveled with Family
- Volunteered Abroad



HCAB Update

HCAB would like to thank everyone involved for making the 23rd Annual Honors College Ball a success for the more than 225 faculty, students, and guests who attended. It was a wonderful night full of food, dancing, and laughs, and we hope you enjoyed the memories you created with all of us at the Honors College! HCAB-funded student scholarships were awarded at the ball to graduating seniors Sarah Lee and Viveka Patel for their involvement and leadership. Our next big HCAB event is the spring Student-Faculty Luncheon on April 6 from 11:30AM to 1:30PM. Keep an eye out for emails regarding this exciting event where you can mingle with your fellow students and Honors College faculty while enjoying a fantastic catered lunch! We hope to see you all there!

—Liz Stark, HCAB President



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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