

Table of Contents

- 1 HCAB Scholarship Recipients
- 2 Note from Dean Bottoms
- 2 Parent Corner
- 3 HCAB Scholarship Recipients
- 3 Upcoming Events and Deadlines
- 3 HCAB Update
- 4 Freedom Summer Panel
- 6 Honors Core Spotlight
- 6 Focus on a Fellow
- 7 Farewell to Leigh Hellman
- 8 Honors College Ball
- 10 Honors College Scholarships
- 12 Lounge Talk



15 Minutes with the HCAB Scholarship Recipients

by Polatip Subanajou • *Sophomore, Philosophy & Physics*

This year, two outstanding individuals were awarded the annual Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) Scholarship, which recognizes significant involvement in the Honors College and its affiliated activities. Let's meet them!

Kimberly Hu is pursuing a dual degree in biology and mathematics, and Kiran Malhotra is pursuing a dual degree in biology and psychology. Malhotra will attend the UIC College of Medicine after graduation, while Hu intends to complete a Master's in Public Health before also entering medical school at UIC. Both have engaged in a variety of activities during their academic careers. For Malhotra, her proudest academic achievement was conducting research in the Department of Psychiatry where she investigated the effects of childhood trauma on middle-aged women. This April, she will present her research abstract at the Women's Health National Congress in Washington, D.C. Hu's proudest academic achievement was being awarded the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and China.

Both were also asked about their most poignant academic challenges. Malhotra didn't view them as challenges, stating: "Even if I were to feel like I was going to have a problem, I could always ask my



Kiran Malhotra, Dean Bottoms, and Kimberly Hu

advisors here [for help]." Hu, though, specified that organic chemistry was a notably difficult experience.

Outside of the classroom, both have participated extensively in extracurricular activities. Hu is an Executive Committee member of the UIC Faculty Senate, Co-Executive Director of Dance Marathon, President of the Phi Eta Sigma honors society, and Treasurer for the UIC Sailing Team. She is also a member of the Honors College Student Leadership Council, Society of Future Physicians, and Association of Pre-Medical Students. She is particularly proud of her nomination for the Midwest Collegiate Sailing Student Leadership Award this past January since she has only started sailing recently.

Malhotra is a member of the Indian Student Association, a Peer Mentor for Women in Science and Engineering, a

(continued on page 3)



A Note from Dean Bottoms

Dear Honors Community,

Spring is always an exciting time at the Honors College, as we see the year's accomplishments pile up, and we get ready to launch another successful class of seniors into the world! Some of the exciting recent accomplishments, many of which are highlighted by the *Ampersand* student reporters in this issue, include:

- A campus-wide event with honored veterans of the 1964 Freedom Summer civil rights movement, with over 230 students, faculty, staff, and community members in attendance
- The 22nd Annual Honors College Ball, which raised over \$15,000 for student scholarships!
- The new *Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Journal*, which just published its first issue.
- The annual campus-wide Student Research Forum, where 82% of undergraduate presenters were Honors College students, including 8 of 10 award winners.

I invite everyone to join me at the Honors College Convocation on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the UIC Forum, where we will recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of

the Class of 2015. We are pleased to announce our convocation speaker, Diane Primo, founder and CEO of the next-generation marketing and content firm Intralink Global, and of Primo Center for Women & Children, a homeless shelter on Chicago's West Side.

Finally, this is the time we thank and congratulate this year's *Ampersand* student writers, editors, and faculty and staff advisors on their outstanding work this year, especially Editor-in-Chief Sarah Lee, Editors Alvin George, Hannah Lee, Maria Nakhasi, and Ricardo Ramirez, and Layout Editors Christine Lee and Shreya Thakkar. We also thank Leigh Hellman, the Graduate Assistant and Editorial Advisor, for all her work with the publications and wish her well as she graduates from UIC in May.

Best wishes for a happy and productive summer!

Bette L. Bottoms
Dean of the Honors College
Professor of Psychology

Parent Corner



Rahul and his family

Before coming to the Honors College, our son Rahul was a very reserved and quiet person. No matter how much we tried to encourage him, he was reluctant to become involved in extracurricular activities. However—after his first semester with the Honors College—we were pleased to learn that he had joined the *Ampersand*, the *Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students*, and the Society of Future Physicians. We truly appreciate the environment the Honors College fosters, which allows Rahul and all members to grow as students and as people. Their support has ranged from providing Rahul with a travel grant for a health care competition with the Clinton Global Initiative to providing funding for his research with Dr. Jeffrey A. Loeb, Department Head of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine. Without the Honors College, Rahul may not have been able to receive these numerous opportunities and for that we are tremendously grateful.

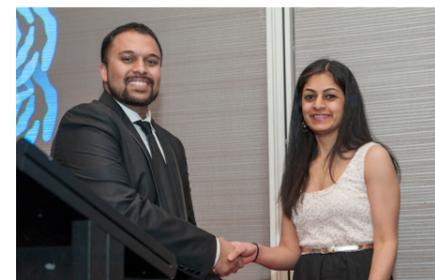
Kamlesh & Jayna Patel

Parents of Rahul Patel, junior in Biological Sciences and Psychology

15 Minutes with the HCAB Scholarship Recipients

(continued from page 1)

by Polatip Subanajouy • Sophomore, Philosophy & Physics



reading mentor at the Village Leadership Academy, and a writer for the *Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students*. “Being able to give back to the community,” Malhotra believes, “by helping kids read, by mentoring underclassmen—those have all been accomplishments in and of themselves.”

Hu and Malhotra also both have various interests beyond their UIC lives. Malhotra makes a point of devoting ninety minutes each day to personal time during which she enjoys reading, cooking, socializing, and watching sports and movies. Hu enjoys pottery, sailing, and cooking during her free time.



For Hu, this scholarship from the Honors College means a great deal: “The Honors College feels like my home away from home.” For Malhotra, it is the recognition from her colleagues of her hard work that means the most to her. Both winners illustrate that excellence is something that is not easily achieved, but rather an achievement that must be worked hard for.

Top: Shivam Thakkar, HCAB president, and Kiran Malhotra
Bottom: Shivam Thakkar, HCAB president, and Kimberly Hu

Upcoming Events

UIC Deadline for British Scholarships
April 15, 2015
www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp/all.htm

OSSP Fulbright Panel
April 22, 2015 @ 12:30PM
801 University Hall

OSSP Fulbright Info Session
April 23, 2015 @ 3:00PM
850 University Hall

Capstone Workshop
April 24, 2015 @ 1:00PM
114 Burnham Hall

Capstone Workshop
April 27, 2015 @ 2:00PM
114 Burnham Hall

Honors Capstone Progress Reports and Completion Forms Due
May 1, 2015

CSHP: Capoeira Workshop
May 1, 2015 @ 5:00PM

Honors College Convocation
May 6, 2015 @ 7:00PM
UIC Forum

Honors Activity Completion Forms Due
May 8, 2015

HCAB Update

The Honors College Advisory Board proudly hosted the 22nd annual Honors College Ball in March. Leading up to the big event, HCAB also featured its first ever Ball Spirit Week, which included a pizza party in the student lounge, a red and black tie day, and a student raffle for Honors College merchandise. Celebrating the theme “A Black Tie Affair”, the Ball was a huge success and was referred to by Dean Bottoms as the best Ball to date. HCAB gives hearty thanks to all of those who

donated, attended, and helped with the ball!

To finish off the school year, HCAB is planning another Faculty-Student Luncheon on April 8 and also preparing for a charity fundraiser. As a general reminder to students, HCAB volunteers keep the Honors College space open Monday through Thursday until 8 PM to allow students a comfortable place to study or relax with friends! We hope you all finish the semester strong!



The panelists



In the summer of '64, over a thousand young people from the North boarded buses to register African Americans to vote in some of the most violently racist areas of Mississippi, even after other activists had been "disappeared" at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. Black sharecroppers and farmers, violating the most dangerous racial taboos of the Jim Crow South, opened their homes to these young, mostly white, volunteers. Freedom Summer registered thousands of black voters, organized youth-led legal and medical teams, and launched "Freedom Schools" to teach about Black history and social activism. Freedom Summer was one of the most important interracial grass-roots movements for social change and social justice. On November 24, 2014, five panelists spoke in the Illinois Room of Student Center East to an audience of over 230 people about how they did it.

The audience at the lecture

"So goes Mississippi, so goes the rest of the nation."

—Mr. Hollis Watkins

"We had no, absolutely zero, interaction with the kids at the white schools."

—Dr. Roy DeBerry

"When [African American] children got to a certain age...the parents had to teach written and unwritten code. It was a matter of survival because the consequences could be lethal."

—Mr. Jim Lewis



From left to right: Ms. Aviva Futorian, Mr. Hollis Watkins, Dr. Roy DeBerry, Dean Bette L. Bottoms, Dr. Peter Orris, and Dr. Natasha Barnes. Not pictured: Mr. Jim Lewis.

A Conversation with Veterans of Freedom Summer '64: How Twenty-Year-Olds Changed America

Photo Credit: Alicia McConnell-Hatch



"Listening to these brave people tell their stories made me realize how much racism is still an issue today. From the lecture, I [felt] a connection to not only the speakers, but also their stories and past experiences... The more people who listen and act, the more progress [can be] made to counteract racism."

—Bess Abramovitz, Freshman, Teaching of History

"I was deeply moved [by the] efforts of the veterans and the risks [they had] taken in their youth...it's very inspiring and makes you really think about [how] you can help to contribute to society."

—Oluwayomi Oyende, Freshman, Undeclared Major

Dean Bottoms

"So in ways large and small [former NBC Nightly News anchor] Tom Brokaw got it wrong—the group assembled before us [today] is our greatest generation."

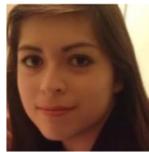
—Dr. Natasha Barnes

"I was asking [African Americans] to go and risk their lives by challenging the status quo [by voting]."

—Dr. Peter Orris



Hollis Watkins leads attendees in singing Freedom songs.



Exploring the Makings of Media

by Maria Flores Garcia • Freshman, Undeclared Major

Yayoi Everett, a professor in the UIC School of Theatre and Music, teaches the Honors core course, 'Myth, Media, and Narrative,' which invites students to explore the various components of media. Honors College students analyze the art of storytelling by first travelling back in time to explore the formal genre of ancient Greek theater. Students examine the various tools that have been used to theorize Western narratives, such as Jungian character analysis, which involves a series of questionnaires and activities to shed light on different personality types. Students compare these older techniques with those commonly found in modern media of the 21st century—specifically film—and contrast the devices used to convey meaning within each of them. One example of a modern narrative technique is special effects, which brings storytelling to life.

Professor Everett puts a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary analysis in her course. A field trip to the Science and Engineering Laboratories (SEL) on campus helps students to gain just such an insight into how technology is changing the media viewing experience, by doing things like stepping onto the Starship Enterprise through the use of a virtual simulation room.

Although stories told in ancient times were conveyed through



Professor Yayoi Everett

word of mouth and those presented today often rely on moving images, all forms of storytelling share some common ground. Storytellers ultimately seek to highlight different issues and express their views to the audience. The final project for this course asks students to pick a genre and apply the skills learned to guide their peers through a film, an opera, or a music video. Professor Everett ultimately hopes that this course will provide students with a foundation for their future work: "I want to get to the core issues of societal problems of today and engage students in the significance of art as a way to allow us to ask critical questions, regardless of our profession."



Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Zizi Papacharissi

by Alvin George • Senior, Biochemistry

Although she has only been an Honors College Fellow for two years, Professor and Head of the Department of Communication Dr. Zizi Papacharissi already commends the work of Honors College students. She thoroughly enjoys engaging with and advising students that she might otherwise not be able to encounter in the classroom and always finds them to have the most "interesting, innovative, and original ideas for [Capstone] projects." Her students are typically studying the social sciences or communication and have an interest in new or social media. It is evident that Dr. Papacharissi truly cherishes her time with her students, especially since—as a department head—she is no longer able to teach as frequently as before. In addition to her role as a Fellow and research advisor to Honors College students, Dr. Papacharissi also examines the social and political implications of the internet in her own scholarly work.

As an Honors College Fellow, Dr. Papacharissi acts as an advisor for students' Capstones, careers, and professional

development. She finds the experience particularly rewarding and affirms: "When you work with Honors students on specific projects, you get to advise them on projects that they don't get the opportunity to do in the classroom." She finds that students come to her with theoretical ideas—usually about social media—that they began positing in their classes. She then helps her students find significance and applications for their theories. She believes that a Fellow functions as a mentor offering multiple perspectives and encourages students to think holistically about their studies. Dr. Papacharissi notes that often, "When you're in college, college is the last thing on your mind." Therefore, as a Fellow, she is able to provide the focus that some students may find beneficial.

In her scholarly work, Dr. Papacharissi studies the social and political implications of the internet as well as the specific platforms it supports. Her research extends back to the 1990s and was sparked from a desire to investigate what was then considered a mysterious medium. Indeed, Dr. Papacharissi

(continued on next page)

Focus on a Fellow: Dr. Zizi Papacharissi

by Alvin George • Senior, Biochemistry

(continued from page 6)



Dr. Zizi Papacharissi

asserts that at the time, "Only 5% of the US population used [the internet]. And now, less than 5% do not use it." Her initial findings on this topic were that the internet has been, and continues to be, used as a functional alternative—it serves as a substitute for or complement to activities people conduct regularly. Since then, Dr. Papacharissi has begun to study personal homepages, blogs, Facebook, and—most recently—Twitter. Unlike what was believed over twenty years ago, the internet is in fact not all that mysterious. Dr. Papacharissi quips, "People use the internet to just do very mundane, ordinary things."

Dr. Papacharissi looks forward to continuing to mentor Honors College students and is truly a valued member of the Honors College community. Her primary advice to Honors College students is to be intellectually adventurous. She recommends: "Take courses in things that don't seem to have any practical applications but only serve the purpose of keeping your imagination alive." No matter what one's major is, she insists that students explore other disciplines. To put it simply: "Experiment with your education."



From the Editor's Desk: Farewell to Leigh Hellman

by Sarah Lee • Junior, Neuroscience

To many Honors College students, Leigh Hellman is no stranger. Editors from the Honors College publications work closely with her to get articles polished and print-ready. Freshmen may know her as their HON 101 instructor from fall semester. Students who frequent the Honors College computer lab have likely spotted her working in her nearby office—perhaps revising an issue of the *Ampersand*.

Leigh Hellman has served as graduate assistant and editorial advisor for Honors College publications since January 2014. At the end of the spring 2015 semester, Hellman will be leaving her role with the Honors College when she graduates from the UIC Program for Writers with her M.A. in English. Her commitment to advising students and attention to detail in editing the student publications are invaluable to the Honors College, and she will be greatly missed, especially by the *Ampersand* team.

A UIC Honors College graduate herself, Hellman earned her B.A. in English in 2008 and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Red Shoes Review*. After graduating, she received a Fulbright grant to teach English in South Korea, where she ultimately stayed for five years. After teaching English abroad, Hellman found herself drawn back to Chicago and specifically UIC. "I never want to stagnate intellectually," says Hellman. "I came back to the Honors College because I wanted to be in a place that fosters academic curiosity."

Hellman has found that the most rewarding part of her time at the Honors College came from seeing students develop as



Graduate Assistant & Editorial Advisor Leigh Hellman

critical writers and editors. "It's gratifying to see students learn something lasting and develop as stronger leaders," Hellman remarked. "At the same time, I also learned how to give feedback and dialogue with a student so we could effectively identify and address problems together."

The *Ampersand* team will dearly miss its editorial advisor and is grateful for her perceptive contributions and her perpetual patience and enthusiasm throughout the editorial process. With Hellman's assistance, the *Ampersand* was able to start the first Honors College blog, run a writer's workshop event, and publish several successful issues.

In addition to mentoring students at the Honors College, Hellman also works as a research assistant in the Department of Medical Education at UIC and enjoys creative writing in her free time. In the future, Hellman wants to continue teaching in order to connect with students in a meaningful way while also giving herself time to continue writing.

To Honors College students, Hellman offers valuable advice: "Trust yourselves—don't be fearful about sharing ideas that could be challenged. Be confident in your ability to be your own authority."



University of Illinois Alumni Association Loyalty Award Recipients Kevin Desouza (pictured left with Dean Bette Bottoms) and Josephine Volpe (pictured right with Associate Dean Stacie Williams)



From left to right: HCAB President Shivam Thakkar and Vice President Michael Durrant; Members of the UIC Jazz Ensemble; Alex Wontorczyk and Alicia McConnell-Hatch; Paul Godlewski and Sterling Werfal; Alyssa Lopez and Ernesto "Tito" Ponce; Honors College students dancing

22nd Annual Honors College Ball

March 7, 2015



From left to right: Shilpa Kolachina, Shreya Thakkar, Rutu Thakkar, and Grace Brown

"My first Honors College Ball was a huge success! I spent the night laughing with my friends and dancing the night away!"
—Pooja Patel

"With this year being my first with HCAB, I was so glad to finally see the Ball take place after all the hard work we all put in!"
—Hanna Hixson

Photo Credits: Robert Dupuis-Devlin (UIC Photo Services) and Alicia McConnell-Hatch



"As a freshman, the Honors College Ball tied all my memories from the year of the Honors College together, and [it reminded] me that I have the best opportunities to make relationships that will last throughout college."
—Adil Siddique

"It was a great pleasure and honor to mingle with the alumni and staff. I learned a lot about the supporters of the Honors College and had a jolly good time with classmates and colleagues—it's definitely an event that every Honors College student should attend at least once."
—Richard Walsh

Gustavo Martinez and Karina Romo

"I had a fantastic time at the Ball. I loved the decorations and how the DJ played a variety of music. It was also great seeing everyone dressed up!"
—Crissel Arban

"It was nice to mingle with other students and staff in the Honors College. I look forward to attending next year!"
—Liz Stark



From left to right: Rachel Joseph, Kiran Malhotra, and Michelle Vu

Activities Honorary Society

Neha Chandan, Alison Chen, Alvin George, Kimberly Hu, Allyson Joyce, David Klawitter, Jonathan Lee, Navika Shukla, Shivam Thakkar

CEO Scholarship for Women in Engineering

Tooba Ghafoor

Clara Marie Paetz Pearce Family Scholarship

Karla Yeh

Darrell Cronan Scholarship

Dae Kim

Dean's and Flaherty Scholarship for Study Abroad (Spring 2015)

Alma Blancarte, Tahaylia Higgins, Alexandra Kupersmidt, Eric Michelson

Goldwater Scholarship

Tiana Wong

Goldwater Honorable Mentions

Elise Debruyne, Navika Shukla

Honors College Advisory Board Scholarship

Kimberly Hu, Kiran Malhotra

Honors College Research Grants (Fall 2014)

Serene Abuzir, Ariunaa Bayanjargal, Kirthi Bellamkonda, Haley Bohl, Erin Bohne, Elizabeth Breen, Joseph Broz, Praksha Butala, Adriana Castro, Alison Chen, Ayaat Dahleh, Roumiana David, Sagar Dommaraju, Mike Durrant, Cyprianna Estrada, Spencer Fang, Jahir Garzon, Alvin George, Joseph George, Jesse Geringer, Ian Haseltine, Sierra Hilt, Jonathan Lee, Michael Liu, Janki Majithia, Monica Makar, Kiran Malhotra, Mohammad Memon, Sandy Mo, Carlos Montero, Jamie Moy, Kashif Osmani, Erika Peters, Truc Phan, James Pinski, Aya Qutub, William Rodriguez, Gayatri Sanku, Love Shah, Alvina Shaikh, Hari Sreedhar, Rosemarie Dawn Tagare, Michael Tam, Kavya Vaitla, Sabrina Velez, Richard Walsh, Shuodan (Danny) Zhang, Waymond Zhou, Amy Zimmerman

Mark A. Wyatt Memorial Scholarship

Nica Lorenz Lim

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

John Leverso, Honors College Alumnus, Class of 2014

Phi Eta Sigma Inductees

Amany Abunimeh, Fathima Alaidroos, Crissel Marie Arban, Tracy Barnes, Carly Burken, Elena Carrillo, Adrien Cook, Pratalia Corbin, Layal Dairi, Sarita Deshpande, Tina Dodangeh, Sara Durrani, Yasmeen Elagha, Grace Enzien, Alexis Gaul, Karis Gorak, Monique Guerrero, John Guistat, Susana Gutierrez, Diamond Harris, Erykah Harris, Hanna Hixson, George Ilenikhena, Raphael Jabbar, Kye Bum Jeon, Vanessa Jerger, Arun Joseph, Ebin Joseph, Santhanam Kumar, Ottissa Lau, Yasmine Lotfi, Lauren Lucas, Chrisoula Manokas, Maxwell McKeough, Daisy Moreno, Saarah Naalah, Chioma Ndukwe, Karolina Nedza, Erin Nielson, Meagan Ouy, Damilola Oyedokun, Oluwayomi Oyende, Grayson Pajkos, Harsh Patel, Neha Patel, Michelle Paz, Olivia Powrozek, Zoe Quezada, Ashton Richey, Jennifer Rosario, Manmeet Singh, Debra Sodimu, Erin Sondgeroth, Blake Stermer, Nayfah Thnaibat, Valeriya Volodarskaya, Jocelyn Zamudio, Hannah Zimmer

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship

Saul Alarcon, Vikki Jones

Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program

Usama Ibrahim

Sally and Kevin Desouza Family Scholarship

Helen Klable

Sister Dorothy Drobis Award

Jesus Vallejo

Society of Future Physicians Scholarship

Zoie Sheets, Himanee Patel, Amy Halder, Breyuana Spencer, Joseph Lehnert

Thinking about a Fulbright Grant?

Summer is the best time to get started on your Fulbright application! The Fulbright Scholarship sends students abroad for a program of study, research, or to teach English for a year-long term beginning in the fall of each year. You must have your bachelor's degree before you leave and the UIC deadline is early September. For a Fulbright Full Grant, you put together a plan of study or research that would take 10–12 months to perform. Proposals can include classes, research projects, library

work, observations, training in the creative arts, surveys, lab work—in short, anything that would help you study or learn more about your proposed topic. The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) offers the chance to teach English for 10 months in another country. Past scholars have considered their Fulbright an experience of a lifetime. Please direct Fulbright Grant questions to Beth Powers at bpowers@uic.edu. She is available all summer long to help you prepare a great application.

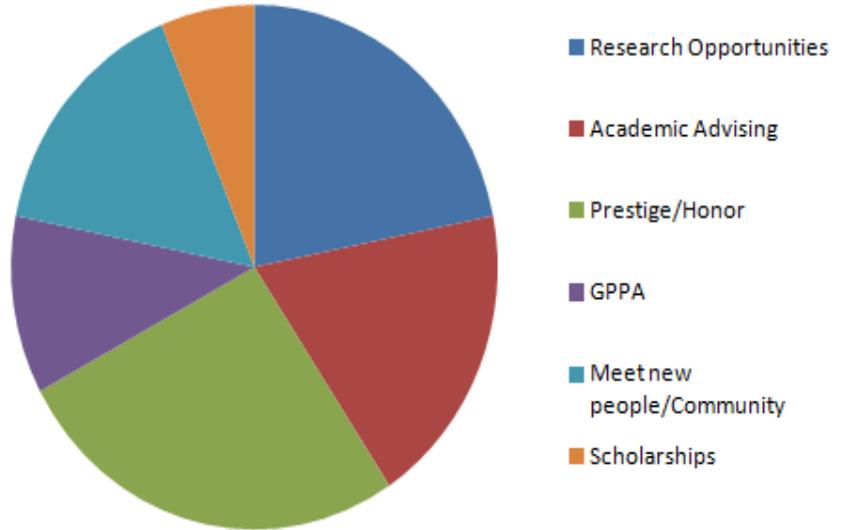


Lounge Talk: Why Did You Choose The Honors College?

by Sarita Deshpande • Freshman, Bioengineering

As the Fall 2015 application process for the Honors College is now in full swing, I asked current students to reflect on why they chose to join the Honors College. Most said that they enjoyed being part of a prestigious group. They also appreciated the countless research opportunities and personalized academic advising provided through the Honors College. Many noted that the camaraderie fostered among students encourages a welcoming sense of community.

Honors College students come from a variety of different backgrounds, but they all exhibit a passion for learning. The Honors College provides an ideal environment for intellectual stimulation and collaboration for scholarship.



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.



Visit our website to access our student blog and past issues.

ampersand.honors.uic.edu

www.facebook.com/UICampersand

The Ampersand Board

Editor-in-Chief

Sarah Lee

Editors

Alvin George

Hannah Lee

Maria Nakhasi

Ricardo Ramirez

Layout Editors

Christine Lee

Shreya Thakkar

Graduate Assistant & Editorial Advisor

Leigh Hellman

Honors College

Staff Advisor

Sara Mehta

Faculty Advisors

Associate Professor

Mark Chiang

Associate Dean

Sara Hall