

THE AMPERSAND

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- Find out important information about the Honors College Ball!
- Read about two Honors College students' experiences at the Presidential Inauguration
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A NOTE FROM DEAN BOTTOMS

I've always been impressed by the Honors College and what it has to offer, but over the past two months as Interim Dean, I have learned so much more about the college, and I have become even more impressed. Our faculty members are providing the highest quality mentoring and teaching, our staff members are exceptionally committed to our mission, our students are fabulous, and our alumni and alumnae and other friends are supportive. As a result of these things -- and as a result of excellent leadership from former Dean Lon Kaufman -- the Honors College is thriving!

I'm looking forward to the coming semester -- in addition to all the usual activities to support our students and the intellectual community of the university

generally, I'll be working with the faculty to set up task forces to study ways to enhance fellow/student relations and ways to increase student body diversity. I'll also be working with our many student groups in various ways. For example, we're implementing a plan now to provide space to support the work of our student organizations, and I have set up a series of workshops and lectures about leadership for the members of the Student Leadership Council. I'm delighted to report that the latter will be supported by a generous donation from Caterpillar. We can look forward to more donations and fundraising activity in the future because we are currently searching for a new development officer.

Finally, there's the annual



Dean Bette Bottoms

Honors College BALL! I am looking forward to seeing you all there February 28 at the Chicago Sheraton downtown. Buy your tickets now! Then, come spend your money at the silent auction...

I am lucky to take over as Dean at a moment when the Honors College is in a position of remarkable vibrancy and strength. Thank you all for making it that way!

HONORS COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Besides our upcoming sold out theater outing to see Jersey Boys on February 12th, HCAB has a luncheon planned that will knock your sombreros off! We are hosting a luncheon featuring Mexican food on Wednesday, April 1st. This is a great way to not only get to know more of your Honors College peers but also mingle with Honors College staff and fellows. This is also the perfect way to get to know our new Honors College Dean, Bette Bottoms. Remember to get there early if you want to experience this free food lover's fiesta! Watch your email for more details as the date gets closer.

HCAB is planning several fun activities this semester so be sure to be on the lookout for more HCAB events.



THE HONORS COLLEGE RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW DEAN!

LISA B. ZHANG

With the start of a new year, the Honors College is glad to welcome a new interim Dean, Dean Bette L. Bottoms. Although she is new to this position, she is neither new to this University nor is she unfamiliar with the Honors College. Dean Bottoms has been dedicated to UIC since 1992, after receiving her doctorate in Social Psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Since that time, she has been Professor of Psychology and had held part time administrative positions including Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Psychology Department, and Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dean Bottoms has also been active in the Honors College as an Honors College fellow and was even awarded the Fellow of the Year Award in 2006.

Dean Bottoms conducts research focused on children who are child victims or witnesses in legal settings. There are many complex issues that are often not considered by a casual observer of such a trial. For example, numerous psychological factors can affect a child's ability to give accurate testimony. By understanding these factors, police and social workers can adjust their interview styles to get more accurate information from these children. Dean Bottoms also studies cases from the juror's point of

view, looking at their reactions to the testimony of child victims and to juvenile offenders who are accused of crimes and tried as adults. Dean Bottoms currently has 4 graduate students in her laboratory, and a half dozen undergraduates. In fact, she has always worked with Honors College students in her laboratory, and has seen many of them go on to graduate school in psychology and other fields.

An often unknown fact about the position of Honors College Dean is that it is a dual position. The Honors College Dean also serves as the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. As the Vice Provost, Dean Bottoms is responsible for considering ways to improve the UIC experience for undergraduates, very broadly defined. For example, she participates in committees considering ways to increase retention and graduation of students, and oversees many offices that serve undergraduates at UIC. For example, she oversees the Office of Campus Learning Environment, which guides the renovation of classrooms at UIC so that they are truly an environment where students can learn. She also oversees centers on campus such as the Latin American Cultural Center, the Asian American Resource Center, the African American Cultural Center,

the Gender and Sexuality Center, the Office of Women's Affairs, and the Offices of Special Scholarships and Study Abroad.

Even after just a two months on the job, Dean Bottoms shares, "I feel at home in the Honors College – it provides the supportive environment that I knew as an undergraduate at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, a small southern liberal arts college." She believes that the academic support she received in her undergraduate years has played a key role in helping her achieve successes in life. She encourages students to get to know their faculty in general, and her specifically, and invites students to drop in and see her in the Honors College (Fridays work well for her!) In terms of plans for the Honors College this semester, she is setting up student/faculty task forces to study issues of diversity in the student body and ways to build relationships between students and the dedicated faculty in the Honors College. She has also planned a series of leadership workshops for Honors College students. Through these endeavors, Dean Bottoms hopes to see the Honors College continue to grow in many ways that will benefit students and the entire campus in the future.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKET YET?

With the hectic year beginning to slow down and the spring semester well underway, the Honors College Advisory Board is getting ready for one of its biggest events of the year, the 16th Annual Honors College Ball. The final preparations are being made and the tiny details are almost finished. The rush for tickets will soon arrive, showing how this annual event can bring the Honors community into one room and under one roof.

As of now, gossip, dealing with "who's going with who?" and "who is sitting where?" is filling the Honors College lounges. This current chatter about the Ball is something the Honors College looks forward to each and every year. Within the next few weeks, more and more information about this year's Ball will be appearing throughout campus. And, if you are still a little hesitant on whether or not you want to go to the Ball (yes, freshmen, I am talking about you), just ask any of the upperclassman about how much fun and excitement the Ball entails. From the gourmet 3-course meal and the hours of dancing, to the HCAB silent auction, there is something for everyone to enjoy. And, who knows, you might just see some of the Honors College's finest faculty and staff dancing the night away.

So, for anyone that hasn't heard much about the annual Honors College Ball, there is only one way to find out... by going and experiencing, first hand, a night to remember!

Here is the basic information about the 16th Annual Honors College Ball:

Date: February 28, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Location: Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers

Prices: Students: \$45; Faculty/Fellows/Alumni: \$60

Tickets will be available between now and February 13th from either an HCAB member or at the ticket booth at the Honors College (M-F: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.). Late tickets will be available for an additional cost. For more information please visit <http://uichcab.googlepages.com> or email us at uichcab@gmail.com.

WE THE PEOPLE GO TO WASHINGTON

JESSICA FERMIN

My journey to the inauguration may be considered by some, an unconventional one. Packed with little more than water, crackers, and the tenacious determination to be part of a moment in American history that would never be repeated again, I climbed into a car with seven people I had never before met in my life. My rideshare, courtesy of Craigslist and Facebook, was comprised of different races, creeds, cultures, religious faiths, ages, and backgrounds, and "We the People" drove to Washington D.C., towards our common destiny.

We arrived at dawn on the day of the inauguration, and the streets were filled with the anticipation of a nation ready for change. The atmosphere was joyous and celebratory; we were all strangers, and yet we were as connected as friends and family. I even heard excerpts of "Kumbaya" and "God Bless the USA" sung enthusiastically along the way.

It took more than an hour to get through security checks and barricades, but finally, we had arrived. The national mall was merely a macrocosm of our car: 1.8 million people of every color and creed, coming together in peace, hope, and unity to be inspired; to witness history.

I had seen the National Mall in books, magazines, and films, but I had never before stood that ground. It was the same ground in which hundreds of thousands of those fighting for civil rights stood to hear the powerful and prophetic words of "I Have a Dream" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and it was there that I stood to witness the realization of Dr. King's dream as Barack Obama took the oath of office and became the 44th president and the 1st African-American president of the United States of America.

It was more than that, though. "We the People" elected Barack Obama as our president. We the disaffected youth, the laid-off worker, the poorest of the poor, and all those hungry for change these last eight years, rallied together as one voice and brought about this change. I was more aware of our collective freedom on that day than I had ever been, and conse-

quently, I was extremely aware of how often I took that freedom for granted. On that day, I was humbled, grateful, and proud to be an American.

Then our new president addressed the nation for the very first time. It was sobering as he challenged all of us to work together to rebuild America, reminding us that we each had a part to play. He seemed to channel Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and even George Washington all at once, as though the stars were aligned for him and the fates had designed this day long ago.

My response to the inaugural speech

was vastly different than when I witnessed his victory speech at Grant Park, Chicago. Back then it was a grand old party. This time, I spent it in quiet reflection and subdued awe. I was standing next to someone who was as different from me as night and day in every way imaginable. Not a word passed between us, but instead we shared a silent embrace, for we knew we had been part of something greater than ourselves, and we had experienced something that would unite us forever.

President Obama said it best during his inaugural speech:

"...For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and nonbelievers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth. And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace..."



People celebrate and embrace at President Obama's inauguration

HONORS STUDENTS WIN SPARKY AWARD

Congratulations to the four Honors College freshmen in Professor Nancy John's fall 2008 freshman core course, "Communication in the Digital Age" on their award winning video. Their video, "To Infinity and Beyond," was the grand prize winner in the second annual Sparky Awards, a contest organized by SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and adopted by campuses nationwide that calls on entrants to creatively illustrate in a short video the value of sharing ideas.

Selected by a distinguished panel of media scholars, educators, librarians, students, and others, the winning videos offer potent and colorful glimpses of how students see sharing of knowledge spurring innovation, solving problems, and improving lives. The winners were announced on January 24 at a public screening held in connection with the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in Denver. The videos will also be screened at the Campus MovieFest Southern Regional Grand Finale in Atlanta March 28 and 29, 2009.

Danaya Panya, Sebastian Rivera, Hemanth Sirandas, Uriel Rotstein, and Jaymeni Patel collaborated on their video, which may be viewed online at: <http://urliek.blogspot.com/2009/01/sparky-awards-entry.html>

Uriel Rotstein, spokesperson for the winning team, noted that their video was created as an assignment in a course called "Communication in the Digital Age," which explored ideas of communication, the importance of sharing information, and issues involving the movement to digitize information. "We all learned about the importance of open access to information through making our entry for the Sparky Awards and have become open access supporters ourselves," he said.

Source: SPARC

2009 SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION FOR UIC

Each year, the Scholarship Association for UIC offers a number of scholarships for qualified UIC students. Below is a listing of this year's awards. Final deadline for all applications is Friday, February 20, 2009. For questions, please contact Joey Volpe at (312) 355-3407 or jvolpe@uic.edu. The SAUIC website is www.uic.edu/orgs/scholar.

There are a total of 61 scholarships available:

- \$47,800 for students in any major
- \$3,200 for students in Art and Architecture
- \$4,500 for students in Business Administration
- \$2,800 for students in Engineering
- \$16,900 for students in Liberal Arts and Sciences
- \$500 for students in Social Work

Hassan Mustafa Abdallah Scholarship
 Sandra and Furio Alberti Memorial Award
 Association Awards (5)
 Bassett, Chiswick, Kosobud, Stokes Award
 Eugertha Bates Memorial Award
 Dr. Thomas Beckham Memorial Award
 Violet Berquist-Redding Award
 E. Sue Campbell Award
 Cathy Hill Cawthon Memorial Award
 CBA Entertainment Committee - Criminal Justice Graduate Award
 CBA Entertainment Committee - Criminal Justice Undergraduate Award
 CBA Entertainment Committee - Law Award
 CBA Entertainment Committee Music Award
 CBA Entertainment Committee Theater Award
 CBA Charles Goodnow Memorial Award
 CCSGLBTI Graduate Award
 CCSGLBTI Undergraduate Award
 John E. and Marguerite Corbally Award
 Judy Curry Award
 Fred Garcia Endowed Award
 Winifred Geldard Memorial Award
 Joy and Bob Harnack Memorial Award
 Hirsch Family Award
 Judith Ikenberry Award
 Stanley O. Ikenberry Award
 Peter and Elsie May Klassen Memorial Award
 Graduate Student Research Bonus in Memory of

Bernard R. Kogan
 Leonard Kotin Memorial Award for Physical Chemistry
 Grace and Conrad Kroll Scholarship
 Donald and Patricia Langenberg Award
 Peter Langmar Memorial Design Award
 Josephine Margraff Memorial Award
 B.J. Merkle Award
 Francis Moon Award
 Ronald Moses Award
 Norman Nachtrieb Memorial Award
 Jeri Parker Award
 Norman Parker Award
 Michael J. Piorkowski Award
 Donald and Leah Riddle Prize
 Joel M. Rothschild Memorial Award
 Sylvia Saffrin Memorial Award
 Salinas-Chapa Family Memorial Award
 Robert and Corrinne Silver Award
 Harold Simon Memorial Award
 Betty Stuart Smith Award
 Eileen and Michael Tanner Award
 Trace-Derrick Award
 Richard H. Ward Award
 Ralph Westfall Award
 Mark Wyatt Award
 Laurette Kirstein Scholarship (5)
 William Raffeld Award

“Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

2009 SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Each spring the Scholarship Association for UIC offers scholarships for current UIC students. Following are step-by-step instructions regarding how to apply for our awards:

1. Check general eligibility requirements for applying for SAUIC awards, and specific eligibility requirements for each award.

Click on the "Awards" button on the left side of web page <http://tigger.uic.edu/orgs/scholar/> to view general eligibility requirements and to determine which awards are applicable for you. You are welcome to apply for multiple awards, but only need to submit one copy of the application materials. (Students may not win more than one Scholarship Association award in any given year.)

2. Determine which of the Scholarship Association for UIC Awards for which you would like to apply.

Some of our awards have special instructions and require additional materials and statements from applicants. Those awards requiring special materials are:

Salinas-Chapa Family Memorial Award

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues Undergraduate Award

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues Graduate Award

Laurette Kirstein Scholarship

3. Complete the WEBFORM APPLICATION to start the process of applying for a scholarship.

Within the webform application you will be required to write one personal statement of approximately 1,000 words that relates your scholarly and professional goals. You may also speak to other important aspects of your life which would help a selection committee to know you better as a person and a student.

Read the guidelines for each award carefully as some request specific attributes which you should cover in your essay. Do not write separate essays, but be sure to address all topics required by the awards you have selected unless you are an applicant for the awards listed in step 2.

***For those students wishing to complete a paper version of the application, you can request a pdf by emailing sauic@uic.edu or visiting the Office of Special Scholarship Programs.

4. Submit two (2) letters of recommendation to the Office of Special Scholarships.

Download the LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FORM twice and provide the form to each of your recommenders.

Letters from UIC faculty members are preferred. All letters should address your scholastic and professional abilities and should not come from family or friends. Letters can be mailed directly to the address below, or handed in by the applicant. (Please note that the form is downloadable and can be printed as many times as necessary.)

**Applications missing letters of recommendation will be considered incomplete, and will not advance in the competition.

5. If applicable, submit a copy of your UIC Financial Aid Award Letter to the Office of Special Scholarship Programs.

For many awards financial need is a consideration. If you are applying for one of those awards and you receive financial aid, please submit a copy of your UIC Financial Aid Award letter or other documentation from the Web for Student system detailing your financial aid package.

*The Financial Aid Award Letter is optional and will not disqualify your application from consideration as some students do not receive financial aid; however, we suggest that you provide us with a complete description of how you finance your education in the webform application if you do not submit any documentation.

6. If necessary, you should consult with your Financial Aid Counselor if you have questions about how winning an award may affect your financial aid.

If you are selected as an award recipient all funds are distributed through your student account during the 2009-2010 academic year unless you are a graduating senior. It is important to consult your Financial Aid Counselor to determine the effects of winning an award. Please keep in mind that winning merit based awards always benefits you beyond the monetary aspects of the award, so we recommend that you contact the SAUIC Coordinator if you have questions.

All application materials are due on February 20, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. to room 2506 University Hall.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Special Scholarship Programs

2506 University Hall (MC 115)

601 S. Morgan St.

Chicago, IL 60607

(312) 355-2477 or sauic@uic.edu

Materials are also available in room 2506 University Hall.

INAUGURATION DAY 2009: THE CULMINATION OF THE OBAMA PHENOMENON

JOEL EBERT

Of the estimated 1.5 million that flocked to the National Mall for the inauguration of our 44th president, I had the opportunity to be amongst the 240,000 people with tickets to attend the event. I felt privileged to have landed a spot to stand near the Capitol where I could observe the swearing-in of Barack Obama.

Standing in the bitter cold for hours, I witnessed the culmination of Barack Obama's nearly two-year long campaign. While the historic element of Obama's campaign and victory has been examined by many, the cultural aspect is something I feel must be discussed further in order to be fully understood. Along the overall adventure, I have had the unique opportunity to witness not only the development of Obama as a political figure, but the creation of a movement and subculture.

From the cornfields of Iowa during the caucuses last January, Obama was little more than another candidate amongst many. The young people that followed and supported him had an almost electric buzz that didn't exist with other candidates. At the time though, Obama didn't have anywhere near the phenomenon he would have in the end.

As the months followed and Election Day neared, the phenomenon grew stronger. While attending the Democratic National Convention in Denver last August, I was shocked at the amount of memorabilia that was being sold on the streets to mark the momentous occasion. The selling of t-shirts, posters, towels, hats, buttons, flags, bags, and more could be found throughout the Mile High city during the week of the convention.

As Obama's journey advanced, so too did the cultural phenomenon. At his election night rally, most of the streets of Chicago were filled with vendors selling commemorative materials. Specialized t-

shirts, bumper stickers, hats, and buttons could be purchased. Chicago businesses cashed in on the phenomenon as well. Special beers were brewed, special meals were served, and t-shirts and signs throughout the city appeared.

But when I arrived in Washington, D.C. to be a part of the long journey, I was amazed at how the phenomenon had culminated. Walking around the city one could find anything and everything Obama related. Homemade t-shirts, hats, towels, poster, paintings, and drawings were easy to find on any street. Occasionally, you would run into someone selling something unique – hot tea packets, gloves (Hands for Change), masks, hot sauce, and perfume – all related to Obama in one way or another. It was as if anything you could think of had been permeated by our 44th president's name.

What is striking about this is how unprecedented this phenomenon is on a presidential level. No other president has seen a reception quite like Barack Obama.

Whether this will prove to be either a positive or negative influence in future presidential races has yet to be determined, but one thing can't be denied – the cultural embrace of Obama has changed the way in which Americans look at politics today. Whether the phenomenon stays interested in the policies, procedures, and actions of the new President remains to be seen. I hope for the sake of future elections, the interest in our new president remains. But more importantly, I hope the engagement of those in this year's campaign continues in the future, whether Barack Obama is involved or not. Our democracy is best strengthened by an interested and engaged public.



The crowds at the Capitol on Inauguration Day

MORE INAUGURAL DAY PHOTOS!



FOCUS ON A FELLOW: DR. MARY LOUISE BAREITHER

KAREN ORAM

Dr. Mary Lou Bareither is a Clinical Associate Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Kinesiology and Nutrition Department at UIC. Not only has she been working at UIC for 15 years, but she also received both her bachelor's degree in Biology and her doctoral degree in Human Anatomy and Cell Biology here as well.

From the start, Dr. Bareither had a passion for research. She loved working in the lab as an undergraduate, and her first job after graduation was as a research technician in the College of Medicine's department of anatomy and cell biology. It was through her experiences in this position that she decided she wanted to continue with her education. She applied to the department of anatomy and cell biology with the department head of obstetrics and gynecology Ralph Wynn as her graduate advisor. Her graduate research focused primarily on female reproductive biology.

After Dr. Bareither finished her doctorate, she continued her research for another year, and then left in order to devote some time to her family. Meanwhile, she held several part-time graduate-level positions at various schools including the College of Chiropractic in Lombard (now The College of National Health Sciences), the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and the UIC College of Nursing.

Dr. Bareither held these positions for several years, but returned to UIC full-time about 15 years ago after being asked by a friend to help out with the anatomy and physiology classes. A short time later, Dr. Mark Grabiner became the new department head and with him, Dr. Bareither was able to return to research, this time focusing on bone health.

Dr. Bareither's current research is incredibly interesting and centers on changes in bone mineral density and bone mineral content in response to mechanical loading. In layman's terms, it's basically how exercise causes changes in bone strength. The goal is to find ways to improve bone strength without use of osteoporosis medications, or in conjunction with these medications. Dr. Barei-



Dr. Mary Louise Bareither

ther, along with Dr. Grabiner and Dr. Karen Troy, conduct their research by using dynamic loading (putting force against a bone) to stimulate the bone, in hopes that the bone will respond to the stimulus and become stronger. More specifically, research subjects – including some of Dr. Bareither's Honors College students – push on a load cell to a certain level various times per week, and then their bone mineral density is tested for changes.

In addition to this research, Dr. Bareither is also doing educational research within the classes that she teaches. Currently, she is conducting a study on peer instruction in her anatomy and physiology labs. The purpose of the study is to see how stu-

dents respond to being taught by juniors and seniors, or a person who has recently completed the class. These peer instructors teach in the lab along with the Teaching Assistants. Through this research, Dr. Bareither has found that not only are the lab students more comfortable with peer instructors, but the peer instructors themselves understand the subject matter better as a result of teaching it! Dr. Bareither has collected a lot of interesting data which will be sent off for publication very soon.

Even with all of her research interests and classes, Dr. Bareither finds time to counsel honors students as an Honors College Fellow. It is a position she cherishes, and she enjoys forming close bonds with her students and helping to guide their way through the many important and difficult decisions they must make. One thing she likes to do is to pair up a more experienced Honors College student with an incoming freshman so that they can share their experiences and talk together. With all her experience helping Honors College students and others, Dr. Bareither naturally had some helpful advice for those who won't benefit from having her as their fellow. She advocated developing relationships with your professors – which will help immensely when it comes time for letters of recommendation – and, above all “get involved...be aggressive...[and] be instrumental in your own development.”

THE DREAM LIVES ON: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

On Friday, January 16th, several students were honored at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Awards Luncheon, held in the Student Services Building.

The following Honors College students are recipients of this prestigious award:

Tania Boisson, Senior, Psychology
 Ekua Gilbert-Baffoe, Senior, Biological Sciences
 Samantha Gutierrez, Junior, Mechanical Engineering
 Beatriz Lopez, Senior, Elementary Education
 Adriana Ruiz, Junior, Movement Sciences

Congratulations to all!

ONE VAN, ONE WEEK, ONE CAUSE

NILAY SHAH

It was an unlikely group - all students, but from diverse fields of study, varying ages, and different Spanish language proficiency. One van, one week, and one cause tied us together, as we traveled in December 2008 from Chicago to San Juan, TX to work with La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a migrant and farm workers rights organization developed by civil rights activist Cesar Chavez as a part of the United Farm Workers union, created to advocate on behalf of destitute and undocumented residents of southern Texas. At the beginning of our journey we did not know each other, having met just once before for an orientation session.

This was the appeal of Alternative Spring Break, UIC's most unique and exciting volunteer service organization. Dedicated to providing students opportunities in experiential and service-based learning, ASB seeks to remove students from their comfort zones in order to contribute back to the national community. In particular, ASB encourages applications from students who otherwise would not have time to volunteer during the semester.

Our trip to LUPE started on a dreary Saturday morning after finals week, when nine of us departed from UIC's campus for a 24-hour drive to San Juan, a small community at the Texas-Mexico border. After the long drive, we arrived the following day at the grounds of LUPE on a sunny, warm afternoon, ready to begin our volunteering projects. The program directors at LUPE had already determined a schedule for our group; on the first day, we were to receive an orientation to LUPE, and on Monday morning we assembled in LUPE's small conference room to learn about the mission of the organization and the living conditions for the residents of the local communities. We received a crash course on immigration policy, rights, and politics, and heard about the injustices facing the local community of destitute residents, many of whom are undocumented.

The staff of LUPE made clear the fact that the community residents did not have a voice in local affairs, and in fact there were a number of policy decisions being implemented which threatened to jeopardize the safety of families across the region. The border wall currently being constructed by the Department of Homeland Security, for example, is being constructed in a way that a number of United States residents would not be able to receive access to ambulance and fire fighting services. With the knowledge of these issues, we then set to work, first volunteering in a community health clinic serving local uninsured and underinsured residents. We were able to see how the clinic operated for all of the members of the local neighborhoods, and gained valuable insight into this

important service provided to the local community. Our ASB group also had the opportunity to volunteer with *Proyecto Azteca*, an organization which works closely with LUPE to build affordable housing for local residents, much like Habitat for Humanity. Instead of the traditional home construction, however, we were tasked with home destruction - a local resident was receiving a new home, but before the home could be constructed, the old home on the lot had to be destroyed. For two mornings we kicked out walls, tore out insulation and drywall, welded sledgehammers, disassembled the roof, and brought down the entire house - and in the end, we helped the crew from Proyecto Azteca get two days ahead of schedule on this building project.

Although our time at the health clinic and the construction project was fun, interesting, and important, our other activities were even more valuable for the ASB group. We spent a significant amount of time canvassing the local *colonias*, the small, often impoverished communities made up of Hispanic residents, many of whom were not U.S. citizens.

Since the majority of the neighborhood residents spoke little-to-no English, our Spanish skills were tested and utilized as we distributed information to the local residents about LUPE's income tax preparation services. Each member of our group began these days of flyer distribution somewhat apprehensively, but as we spent more time in the neighborhoods, we became more confident in our abilities to communicate with the people who answered the door when we knocked. Although the members of our group had varying fluencies in Spanish, those who knew Spanish well were teamed with those with less knowledge of the language, and in the end every member's Spanish abilities improved as a result of our volunteering directly in the neighborhoods.

On the last day of our trip, we also had the opportunity to volunteer at a holiday party for children of one of the local *colonias*. This proved to be the most memorable service activity of the entire trip. We arrived in the afternoon to a neighborhood of small, crumbling houses on wide dirt lots, and began to set up for the party: tables and chairs were assembled, music was played on a small stereo, and a piñata was stuffed and hung for the children. One by one, families of

children and their mothers arrived, each bringing a dish to be served at the party. Once all the families had arrived, there were probably close to 20 mothers and 50 children sitting around the small tables. As the staff of LUPE organized the party and the food, we played with the children, who seemed eager to interact with our



ASB group in front of a mural on the LUPE grounds on the first day



ASB group on top of the roof of the Proyecto Azteca house we helped destroy, after the roof was brought down to the ground

(Continued on page 10)

FEELGOOD AND OUR GOURMET GRILLED CHEESES

LUCY NA & ROBIN ZHOU

Over 850 million people across the world are suffering from chronic hunger due to poverty. But despite the vast amounts of money being redirected to feed the hungry, the issue of world hunger has not been greatly remedied. Our new organization, FeelGood, was started with the goal of uniting students who truly believe that our generation can solve this problem.

What made FeelGood unique to us was that it addresses the root of the problem, instead of just the symptoms, while striving to create partnerships with areas in need instead of relying on charity. Hearing about other chapters at universities such as UIUC, we decided it would be a good idea to begin a chapter at UIC where we see hunger on our metropolitan streets everyday.

FeelGood raises money by selling grilled cheese sandwiches while, at the same time, raising awareness of this pressing issue across campus. All proceeds are donated to The Hunger Project which works with governments to establish a sustainable system in order to help individuals (especially women) become self-reliant. The organization implements educational programs that teach skills and techniques, such as agricultural ability or sanitation awareness, etc., to individuals, not only improving their own lives but community conditions as well.

Yet, starting the organization proved to be easier said than done. Our first obstacle was to develop a menu. Not wanting to simply sell a slice of cheese on bread, we established a menu that incorporated many local influences. What resulted was our delicious gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches - see our menu below. Next, we had to find a place to actually sell. After a failed attempt selling at the SCE Link due to campus regulations, we worked in conjunction with the Honors College in order to be able to sell the sandwiches fresh-off-the-grill.

Despite these hardships, our grilled cheese sales have been successful. After selling twice, we've raised more than \$200. The knowledge that other people supported our cause has motivated us to continue our plan to expand, which includes raffles, volunteering with soup kitchens, and working with our local government officials. We've even ordered T-shirts

which will be sold at our next sale date. Contact any of the board members or e-mail us at feelgood.uic@gmail.com to ask how you can help solve world hunger, or just come buy gourmet grilled cheese and hang out with Grilled Cheese Man!

Be on the lookout for an email from FeelGood about our next sale date in February.



L to R: Robin Zhou & Nirav Patel
(Grilled Cheese Man!)

| | | Donation of: |
|--|---|---------------|
| | | |
| M e n u | The Soprano | \$3.50 |
| | Choice of Bread, Provalone, Pasta Sauce, Fresh Sliced Mushrooms, Olives | |
| | The Monster | \$4.00 |
| | Choice of Bread, Sauteed Peppers, Onions, Mushrooms, Olives, Provalone, Cheddar | |
| | U-Call It | \$3.50 |
| | Choice of Bread, Choice of Cheese, Two Toppings | |
| The Chicago | \$3.50 | |
| Choice of Bread, Cheddar Cheese, Sauteed Peppers, Onions | | |
| Nice & EZ | \$3.00 | |
| Choice of Bread, Choice of Cheese | | |

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Help is Just a Stairwell Away!

Honors College Tutoring Program

Confused by calculus already? Biochem have you bewildered? Don't worry...the Honors College tutors are here to help! Just stop by the Honors College Tutoring Center to get help in these classes and many more.

Qualified Honors College students tutor all subjects Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the second floor of Burnham Hall in Room 220 BH. You don't need an appointment; just walk in and help is there!

We Want to Hear from YOU!

Are you interested in writing for the Ampersand? The Ampersand is open and eager to accept submissions from all Honors College students.

Please contact Jennifer Kosco at jkosco@uic.edu if you are interested.

Ampersand Board

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HONORS COLLEGE BRIGHTENS UP HOLIDAYS FOR CHICAGO-AREA KIDS

This past holiday season, HCAB and the Honors College teamed up with the Salvation Army in their yearly Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree program is a community outreach initiative that asks people in the Chicago land area to purchase toys and other items for needy children. The donors fill out "tags" specifying the item's targeted gender and age. The Salvation Army then collects and sorts the presents, and then distributes them to parents who can't afford presents for their children. This season, the Honors College was able to give over 30 kids a happier holiday. HCAB would like to thank all the donors for participating in this great program!

Participating Individuals: Lisa Lynn, Irene Jaramillo, Adam Kuranishi, Suemayah Abu-Doleh, Penelope Burikas, Anita Mathew, Marie Khan, Marissa King, Carla Navoa, Marissa Ford, Jacob Mueller, Janet Madia, Brian Lin, Jocelyn Ou, Laura Zitella, Sarung Kashyap, Becky Simondson, Michelle Zetek, Joseph Esparaz, and Milan Patel

Participating Student Organizations: Alternative Spring Break, GPPA Student Executive Board, Unifying Diversity, Honors College Advisory Board, Honors Ambassadors

Thanks again to all who gave so generously!

(Continued from page 8)

group of college-aged students. From a game of soccer, to a round of "Simon Says!" we ran to keep up with the kids as they enjoyed the evening.

As much fun as this was, the holiday party began to impart a strong lesson on our group as the organizer from LUPE initiated a brief community meeting for the assembled mothers, discussing updates on LUPE's efforts to advocate on behalf of the community and the steps being taken to bring much needed services to the neighborhood infrastructure. A young girl volunteered to recite the prayer for Cesar Chavez, and the entire group assembled to speak to prayer together. The unity of the community was especially evident, and as a group we were amazed to see such solidarity in a community inundated with dramatic financial and social disparity. Their optimism and camaraderie was inspiring, and we found that our experiences volunteering at this event gave us a true sense of the community we had traveled to help.

We reluctantly packed to travel back to Chicago the next morning, but as a group we were inspired to continue working and volunteering with communities in need of our help. Alternative Spring Break had enabled us to work with an issue that we as individuals knew very little about, but within a week became much more familiar with through service-oriented learning. The experiences we had in San Juan were invaluable, and each member of our ASB group believed that the week spent in Texas was of tremendous value to understanding the needs and problems of the national community.

Alternative Spring Break is currently in the process of planning the Spring Break service trips; this semester, ASB aims to send out 10 service trips to various organizations across the country (including LUPE, our most popular service trip destination) working with issues such as urban poverty and homelessness, affordable housing, Native American rights, and environmental preservation. The general meeting for these trips is coming up in February, and applications will be available soon. Keep checking the website, www.asbuic.org, for updates on the Spring trips and applications and joining our mailing list. After having participated in three service trips now - to LUPE, to Habitat for Humanity in Florida, and to the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance in Philadelphia - I wholeheartedly encourage all Honors College members to apply for Spring service trips. It truly is a great, unique way to learn about and give back to your community.



ASB group, just before our departure, in front of a mural on the LUPE grounds, with staff of the LUPE office and the LUPE director