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Books on display at the "Visualizing Uncle Tom's Cabin" exhibit.

Photos by: Timothy Nguyen



150 Years of Race Relations, Sensationalism, and Media Representations

by Polatip Subanajouy • *Sophomore, Philosophy & Physics*

"So this is the little lady who made this big war."

Supposedly this was what President Abraham Lincoln said to Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 150 years ago; now, many would argue that the depravity rendered in the novel continues to affect the dynamics of American race relations today. It is against this backdrop that Associate Special Collections Librarian, Valerie Harris, and Manuscripts Librarian, Peggy Glowacki, curated the "Visualizing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*" exhibit with the help of proprietor Richard Ellis, professor at the University of Birmingham in England. Associate Professor Emerita Dr. Nancy Cirillo uses the novel and the themes depicted by this exhibit to teach her two Honors College courses: "Readings in the Atlantic Slave Trade" and "Who was Uncle Tom?"

One of the exhibit's central themes is the immense popularity that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* witnessed both domestically and abroad. An even more complex theme centers on sensationalism and media representations during the novel's heyday. For example, British anti-abolition caricaturist George Cruikshank regularly depicted citizens of African descent through blatant stereotypes, such as having overly exaggerated lips. Dr. Cirillo asserts that, "Ninety-nine percent of these descriptions are by white

people. Ninety-nine percent of these descriptions are for white people." The question naturally follows: Would *Uncle Tom's Cabin* have obtained the fame it did without the sensationalism? Dr. Cirillo is adamant that it would have because much of the popularity came locally through theatrical productions and word of mouth.

Nevertheless, modern connotations of the phrase "Uncle Tom" tend to be derogatory. The phrase is regularly used to disparage African Americans by insinuating that he or she is submissive to white privilege and society. In response to this, Dr. Cirillo asserts, "[People who use the phrase this way] have never read the book. Uncle Tom is representative of a Christ-like creature. He is saint-like." She quips, "Americans don't do well with saint-like creatures."

Whatever the case, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* remains a controversial topic that Honors College students continue to engage with. Dr. Cirillo's two Honors College courses consist of over 30 students who have read the novel—most for the first time—and are discussing this historic work passionately.

The "Visualizing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*" exhibit can be found on the third floor of the Richard J. Daley Library in the Special Collections and University Archives Department, and will run until April 30, 2015.

a note from Dean Bottoms



DEAR HONORS COMMUNITY,

Welcome to the first issue of the 2014-15 *Ampersand*! Thanks to *Ampersand* Editor-in-Chief Sarah Lee and the full *Ampersand* staff of writers and editors for this wonderful edition, which serves as a window into the many opportunities that are available to Honors College students -- including unique Honors courses, mentorship from award-winning Faculty Fellows, in-depth Honors Capstone research experiences, and service opportunities through organizations such as Alternative Spring Break.

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all the new faces in the Honors community this Fall, including students, faculty, and staff. We welcomed 479 new students this year, including new first-year, transfer, and continuing UIC students, and now have over 360 Faculty Fellows. You may also notice two new smiling faces in Burnham Hall: Lynn Lopinski, a graduate student in Education, and Aisha Pleasant, a graduate student in Criminology, Law, and Justice, are our two new graduate assistants who manage the Front Desk. If you haven't already, stop by and say hi!

Under Honors Academic Advisor and Program Specialist Stephanie O'Leary's leadership, the College just kicked off our new Fall 2014 Professional Development Workshop Series that helps prepare juniors and seniors for their next steps after graduation. We have hosted panel discussions and workshops about applying to graduate school, medical school, and law school. Future sessions will focus on helping students find internship, scholarship, and fellowship opportunities. In addition, in connection with the Future of Chicago Lecture Series, Honors College students will hear from leaders such as the 38th Governor of Illinois Jim Edgar and have an exclusive opportunity to have lunch with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle after her on-campus speech in November.

Stay connected with us this semester! Like the UIC Honors College on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at @UICHonors. And as always, stop by my office hours on Mondays at 2:00 pm to say hi and share your ideas for the Honors College!

Best wishes for a great semester,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bette L. Bottoms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Upcoming Events

12 Years a Slave Screening

November 4 @ 3:30 P.M.

Lecture Center C6

"The Future of the State of Illinois Lecture by 38th Governor of Illinois Jim Edgar

November 5 @ 12:00-12:50 P.M.

Lecture Center F3

CSHP: I Have A Dream Lecture, Chicago Humanities Festival

November 8 @ 10:30-11:30 A.M.

UIC Forum

Uncle Tom's Cabin Screening

November 10 @ 3:00 P.M.

Daley Library Room 1-470

OSSP: General Scholarship Info Session

November 11 @ 2:00 P.M.

2750 University Hall

FPDS: Aging, American Style

November 12 @ 3:30 P.M.

114 Burnham Hall

"Reform of Cook County Government" by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

November 12 @ 12:00-12:50 P.M.

Lecture Center F3

Mock Research and Poster Presentation Session

November 13 @ 4:00 P.M.

121 Burnham Hall

General Capstone Workshop

November 19 @ 1:00 P.M.

114 Burnham Hall

CSHP: United Capoeira Association - Chicago

November 19 @ 5:30 P.M.

Village Leadership Academy

FPDS: Scholarships and You: Funding Your Graduate Education and Your Future

November 20 @ 3:00 P.M.

121 Burnham Hall

Honors College Fall Research Symposium

November 20 @ 3:30 P.M.

302 Student Center East

General Capstone Workshop

November 24 @ 2:00 P.M.

114 Burnham Hall

Conversations with Veterans of Freedom Summer '64

November 24 @ 4:00-6:00 P.M.

Lecture Center C6



Mapping Artifacts: UIC Senior Delves Into Archeology in the Czech Republic

by Yuwa Edomwande • *Freshman, Undeclared*

While many of his peers tried to fight off the Chicago swelter, James McGinty spent the summer of 2013 digging around in the southern region of the Czech Republic. McGinty—a graduating senior and anthropology major—had previously gone to the Czech Republic for field school and returned to the country after receiving a grant from the Honors College to fund research for his Capstone project. From his initial exposure to anthropology through courses he took at the College of DuPage to his subsequent archeological fieldwork through UIC, McGinty fostered a passion for the field: “I knew that archeology was perfect for me, as it allows me to combine my love of studying culture with a kind of history and still have a scientific side.”

McGinty’s work in the Czech Republic centered on conducting “spatial analysis using Geographic Information Systems [GIS] of the artifacts” at an early-Middle Age excavation site believed to be part of the short-lived Great Moravian Empire. McGinty explains, “[The] people who live in the southern Czech Republic trace their history back to the Moravians. Therefore, we are helping to uncover the ‘lost past’ of these peoples’ rather distinct ancestors.”

After digitally recording the artifacts, McGinty conducted various types of analyses that may ultimately facilitate a better understanding of how these artifacts

were physically distributed. McGinty acknowledged that people have different ideas about what it means to discover and study artifacts; on the most basic level, fieldwork is digging slowly and doing lots of paperwork. “But we also look at much more—such as the soil around the artifacts—as this gives the artifact context,” he adds. “Archeology is as much about the context as it is about the actual artifacts.”

In addition to support from the Honors College, McGinty has received guidance from UIC’s Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Archeology, Professor Robert Hasenstab. McGinty spent about five weeks gathering data, three to fourth months on analysis, and several more months writing the post-analysis for his Capstone.

As for his favorite part of the process, McGinty cited creating different 3D maps using GIS: “You’re visualizing the information in different ways.”

McGinty plans on earning a technical certificate in GIS and doing private archeology contract work after graduating, but knows that the opportunities afforded by his experiences with this project will remain invaluable. “The opportunity presented itself,” he notes. “Without [a grant from the Honors College], it probably wouldn’t have even happened.”



Dear Freshman Friend

by Nidhi Suthar • *Freshman, Biological Sciences*

You’re well into the fall semester now, and you can say with some authority and pride that you’ve become a true college student. You’ve learned the layout of the campus—perhaps after some memorable detours wandering through buildings—have survived your first weeks of classes, and have taken a few of those intimidating midterms. And for that, you deserve congratulations!

College life has definitely kept you busy, and it is strange to consider that just a few months ago you couldn’t really anticipate what this fall would bring. Now that you’re more comfortable with the college lifestyle, it is important to seize the opportunities available at UIC and the Honors College to make your college experience

as memorable and rewarding as it possibly can be!

Getting involved early is a great way to meet new people and explore your interests. Make sure you check out the Honors College



Honors College tutoring center

organizations—which vary from service-based groups to publications like the one you’re reading right now! College is a perfect time to reach out and try new things. Who knows, you may discover a new passion!

You should also take advantage of the fantastic

(continued on next page)

Dear Freshman Friend

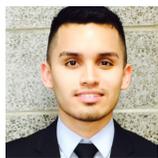
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resources provided by the Honors College—for example, Honors College tutoring is a great way to get additional academic help. Use your Honors 101 class not only as a chance to meet fellow students but also as an opportunity to learn about the many resources available on the campus at large. Hearing information from a different perspective, especially from your peers, can make a tremendous impact

on understanding material—particularly when you have a big exam coming up!

As a freshman, you're at the beginning of a journey that is yours to shape. By embracing all the opportunities and resources available on campus, you can be sure to make the most out of your college experience!

-A Fellow Freshman



One Country. Six Weeks. A Lifetime of Experience.

by Carlos Montero • Junior, Biological Sciences

This summer I studied abroad in Kunming, China, commonly known as the City of Eternal Spring. By briefly immersing myself in Chinese culture, language, and traditional medicine, I was able to substantially broaden my worldview. Living in China improved my ability to cope in completely new surroundings and taught me an important lesson: great things happen outside of our comfort zones.

Through the UIC Study Abroad Office, I participated in a six-week program—"Community Health and Traditional Chinese Medicine"—with a group of other students from various U.S. universities. In addition to studying basic Mandarin, the program also consisted of learning about community health and traditional Chinese medicine—two topics that interest me greatly as an aspiring physician. By working alongside professionals in the field, we gained first-hand experience with urban and rural public health issues.



Delicious food adventures

The UIC Study Abroad Office and the Honors College were great resources in helping me search for the program that fit me best. As a pre-med student, I struggled to pick a program that would complement my four-year plan and prerequisite courses. Luckily, my advisors supported me until I found the perfect program and scholarship. When it came to revising the multiple drafts of my scholarship essays, they were there every step of the way.

Ultimately, my study abroad experience became a



Enjoying local Chinese food

reality through the Gilman International Scholarship. To fulfill the post-study abroad aspects of that scholarship, I am carrying out a service project that involves presenting at study abroad meetings. I discuss my experience with students in order to motivate them to study abroad so that they, too, can expand their comfort zones. I hope more students are able to study abroad so that they can develop new

skills and passions for their future goals.

For instance, although my time in China is over, I have continued studying elementary Chinese and hope to continue on through the UIC Chinese program. In addition, studying traditional Chinese medicine has offered me diverse perspectives on the medical profession. Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine have both similar and differing aspects, and I have learned a great deal about the possibilities for my future as a physician through my experience in China.

During my gap year before medical school, I hope to travel abroad and complete a community service or research project in which I would be able to immerse myself once again in another country's culture and language. My six weeks in China were a life-changing experience that I hope to revisit soon through a different lens. If you are looking to adapt a new mindset, visit the UIC Study Abroad Office website at www.studyabroad.uic.edu or visit them in 502 University Hall.



Words as Science: De- and Reconstructing Language

by Maria Flores Garcia • Freshman, Biochemistry

We take them for granted everyday—communicating and comprehending—but how are languages actually made, and how do they gain their meaning? Students in the HON 140 core class—“Deconstructing Language: An Analysis of Structure and Purpose” taught by Senior Lecturer of English Miriam Rosenbush—grapple with these questions as they are given the opportunity to analyze language through the various mediums of a critical text, film, and Ted Talks.

The students initially approach these core concepts of language through the theories regarding communication presented in the course text, Steven Pinker’s *The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language*. These readings, along with the Ted Talks and films, allow students to analyze language in a structural sense—sometimes even breaking it apart to morphemes, the smallest unit of language that carries meaning. In order to apply what they have learned, students construct a hands-on final group project where they create their own languages based on linguistic concepts and constructions discussed in class.

Although the impulse may be for students to use English as a starting point for building a new language,



Professor Rosenbush

all languages are united by the same common characteristics regardless of their level of complexity. One of these characteristics is that language allows for the transfer of thoughts from one mind to another with surprising accuracy. However, some discrepancies do come about because each society and person has a unique understanding and perception of the world, which is reflective of not only culture but also individual thought.

“The fascinating thing about the class is that when people think about grammar and language, they think of it as something very separate from science. We look, really, at the science of language,” asserts Professor Rosenbush. “Similar to a mathematical equation, we study it as something with particular fixed and moving elements.” Ultimately, HON 140 students are discovering that these elements are what constitute a modern world of multi-linguistic connections.

“Our thoughts aren’t only shaped by our words. Our words are shaped by our thoughts.”



Mozart, Magic, and Madness: An Evening at the Opera with the Chicago Signature Honors Program

by Jane Binner • Junior, English

A hedonistic young man’s descent into depravity and damnation, as retold through a 21st century lens, the Lyric Opera House’s new adaption of Mozart’s 16th century comedic melodrama



Act 1, Scene 1 of Don Giovanni

Don Giovanni follows the eponymous character’s bouts of anger and forgiveness—culminating in a powerful final act where Giovanni, refusing to repent, tries unsuccessfully to claw his way up and out of a smoking under-stage hell.

A September 30th, 2014 performance of this opera was part of this semester’s Chicago Signature Honors Program. The program—currently run by the Honors College’s own post-doctoral fellows Drs. Vernon Lindsay and Aleks Zarnitsyn—offers UIC Honors College students the opportunity to participate in an array of

cultural experiences around the city that might otherwise be inaccessible to them.

I and 44 other UIC Honors students attended this electrifying adaptation of Mozart’s famous opera, headed by Director Robert Falls and Musical Director Sir Andrew Davis. The intense drama was peppered with moments of levity. Although the opera was performed in its original Italian, no meaning was lost because of the translated English text projected on an overhead screen.

I and many others found the experience to be deeply enriching. From the opportunity to dress up for a night in the city to the performance itself, the Chicago Signature Honors Program provided me with an opportunity that I would probably never have had otherwise.

The value of the program, according to Dr. Zarnitsyn, lies in the varied and meaningful experiences it makes available to students. You can find a full list of upcoming Chicago Signature Honors Program events at <http://chicagosignature.honors.uic.edu/events>. Be sure to RSVP early; this program is popular and you wouldn’t want to miss out!



Fellow of the Year: Dr. Roberta Paikoff Holzmüller

by Sarita Deshpande • Freshman, Bioengineering

As the 2013-14 Honors College Faculty Fellow of the Year, Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry Dr. Roberta Paikoff Holzmüller takes pride in successfully balancing her teaching and research responsibilities. Dr. Holzmüller became interested in understanding human behavior and emotional and physical changes in adolescents after she was introduced to developmental psychology research. Her area of study now focuses on promoting educational programs in disability awareness education and helping children and adolescents transition into different stages of life.

Outside of her research, Dr. Holzmüller enjoys serving as an Honors College Faculty Fellow by providing personal attention to each of her students. At almost five years working with the Honors College, she continues to help undergraduates achieve their goals outside of academics by providing research and other extracurricular prospects within psychology. She cherishes the intellectually stimulating atmosphere of the Honors College and values the flexibility the Honors College offers between teaching and research.

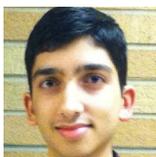


Dr. Roberta Paikoff Holzmüller

Dr. Holzmüller appreciates the way her research ties into her role as an Honors College Faculty Fellow as well. When beginning a new research project, she reaches out to Honors College students for help—the response is always

overwhelming. She enjoys that the students are motivated to take advantage of the opportunities offered through the Honors College, which is why she encourages her students to learn from ideas and concepts outside the classroom. Some of these ideas transform into potential research studies which later develop into exciting Capstone projects.

Finally, Dr. Holzmüller emphasizes the importance of talking to your professors: “Students will learn something that no textbook can ever teach them just by getting to know a professor.” As someone who focuses on the well-being of the students at UIC, Dr. Holzmüller is truly a valued member of the Honors College community.



Alternative Spring Break

by Gaurav Agnihotri • Freshman, Biochemistry

Enjoy volunteering? The Honors College student organization Alternative Spring Break (ASB) provides students with local and national volunteering opportunities. Every year, ASB sends groups of students on trips during the winter and spring breaks to serve non-profit organizations. Anyone can apply to participate in ASB trips, and members are encouraged to also participate in local ASB-sponsored events.



ASB volunteers.

Last spring, ASB members travelled to numerous cities including Lexington, Kentucky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Pittsboro, North Carolina. Allyson Joyce, co-president of ASB, describes her work with Central Kentucky Riding for Hope in Lexington, which provides therapeutic activities with horses for people with disabilities: “I had the opportunity to assist kids

onto horses and help them with their mobility.” Joyce also tutored children in math and helped them earn a certificate in therapeutic writing.

This year, ASB is also focusing heavily on local volunteerism. ASB will be participating in the Hot Chocolate Run on November 9th with proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House Charity. Additional ASB volunteering events include working at bake sales, Chicago Bears concession stands, and soup kitchens. This year ASB is also partnering with Kids Enjoy Exercise Now (KEEN), a national non-profit organization. Joyce remarks: “Our goal is to bring awareness to KEEN and fundraise \$10,000 to help young adults with special needs.” She adds: “Volunteers have the opportunities to become ‘coaches’ and participate in physical activities with young adults with disabilities.” ASB is a great opportunity for Honors students to serve their community as well as to make new friends! To get involved with ASB, contact asbuic@gmail.com.



Diving Back in with UIC Swim

by Michelle Farler • Freshman, Kinesiology

After ten years of competitive swimming, freshman UIC swimmer Hannah Zimmer's passion for the sport continues to grow. Over the years, Hannah has come to love the sport's competitiveness and close-knit team environment. The same desire to compete and



UIC swimmers (from left) Hannah Zimmer, Christian Wilhelm, and Sophia Shalabi volunteer at UIC's Open Water fundraiser.

succeed led her to choose UIC and apply not only for the Honors College, but also for the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions (GPPA) program in Physical Therapy.

In fact, it was swimming that sparked Hannah's interest in physical therapy after she developed overuse injuries in high school. After successfully recovering, Hannah felt a

need to help other athletes in a similar position. While still unsure of her specific track in physical therapy, Hannah is currently majoring in Kinesiology in preparation for the rigorous curriculum of UIC's Physical Therapy doctorate program. Over the next four years, Hannah looks forward to being a UIC Flame and contributing meaningfully to the swim program.

Along with new head coach Tim Loeffler, the swimmers are focused on the team's biggest meet of the year in February—the Horizon League Conference (HLC). Hannah is excited for a great season after a strong start with the annual Red and Blue Inner Squad meet on October 3, where UIC swimmers and alumni competed together against each other. Following that, the Lady Flames officially kicked off their season with a victory at an away meet on October 11 against the Rowdy Raiders of Wright University. With a strong start to the year, the swim team is ready for a promising road to the HLC!

Honors College Advisory Board Update

The Honors College Advisory Board is working hard this semester to make it a memorable year for all incoming Honors College members! So far, HCAB has organized a very successful Student Faculty Luncheon with over 350 students and 50 faculty members in attendance. HCAB is currently working on planning more events for the Honors College, including a game night and a

Krispy Kreme donut sale. In addition, the members of the Honors College External Ball Committee have been selected, and both the committee and HCAB are well into ensuring the annual Honors College Ball will be another grand success this year. Pick up future issues of the *Ampersand* to stay updated on what's to come!

Parent Corner

The Honors College at UIC has provided our daughter, Neha, with an abundance of opportunities that have allowed her to develop her passions and experience new adventures. Neha is a junior pursuing a career in medicine. With support from the Honors College, she has been fortunate enough to lead two Medical/Dental/Public Health Brigades to Honduras and Panama, providing free health care to citizens in underprivileged areas as well as improving sanitation and living conditions. Furthermore, the scholarships given to her by the Honors College have allowed her to spend six weeks this past summer studying abroad in Copenhagen. These unique and defining experiences have helped shape Neha into the person she is today, and would not have been possible without the Honors College's help.



Neha Chandan and her parents Naresh and Ritu Chandan

Naresh & Ritu Chandan

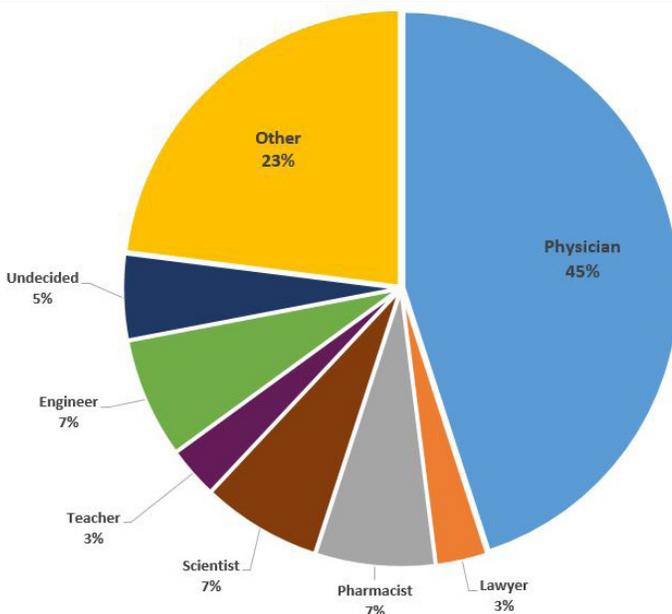
Parents of Junior Neha Chandan; Biological Sciences (Major), Chemistry & Psychology (Minor)



Lounge Talk: Which Career Do You Have in Mind?

by Aesha Talia • *Sophomore, Chemical Engineering*

Moon explorer, president of fashion, fish doctor—for some of us, our childhood dream jobs have probably changed drastically over the years. Others, however, might be on their way to making that childhood goal a reality. My curiosity led me to dig into this topic by asking Honors College students about their current career goals. Having spent a year here, I felt like I could already guess one popular choice—doctor—so I wasn't surprised when that answer frequently came up.



To get a better idea, I created a poll and sent links to those living in the Honors Special Interest Areas of campus housing. After receiving 85 responses, I realized that I had underestimated the diversity of my fellow classmates' interests. To my surprise, aspiring medical anthropologist-professors and physician-turned-politicians—among many other variations—exist! In addition to budding physicians, lawyers, teachers, and engineers, there are prospective actuaries, health care administrators, medical scientists, news reporters, and research economists. Although becoming a physician still seems to be the most popular goal, the myriad of passions the Honors College community encompasses is quite remarkable.

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines

Critical Languages Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes
November 12

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
November 14

Ford Foundation Fellowship
November 19

Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award
November 27

Talk South Korea Teaching
Rolling Deadline

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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