

The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

November / December 2003

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 8 - Dec. 12	FINAL EXAM WEEK NOTE: NO READING DAY
Dec. 13 - Jan. 11	Semester Break Enjoy and Relax!
Jan. 12	Spring 2004 Term Begins
Jan. 16	Intents to Graduate Due
Jan. 19	No Classes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 23	Last day to add course Last day to complete late registration
March 13	Honors College Ball

So You Graduated...

Now What?

by Ada Moadsiri

Have you ever considered completing your degree and graduating after the fall semester rather than the spring? Many students choose this option for various reasons. Those sixteen weeks can be spent traveling the world, beginning a new job, exploring what interests you, or anything but studying! A few Honors College students shared their post graduation plans with us.

Sandy, who is a December graduate, is hoping to attend dental school in the fall of 2004 and said that "between December and August, I plan to continue working as a dental

Graduation cont. on page 2

Model United Nations Reemerging at UIC

by Paras Bhavsar

Believe it or not, UIC once had a formidable Model United Nations team. The competitiveness and caliber of diplomatic performance of our very own UIC was very highly ranked, along with top notch Ivy League schools, such as the University of Chicago. However, after state budget cuts, state funding to MUN was severed, thus sending the team into a spiraling downfall.

However, the Model UN team is back on the rise. Many students have voiced interest in Model UN, a globally-run simulation that mocks the actual United Nations assemblies. At the collegiate level, several different universities represent different countries, and the students themselves attend the conferences as representative delegates for the particular country that the University is representing. Delegates have a variety of councils to choose from, including Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the famous Security Council (SC), the General Assembly (GA), World Health Organization (WHO), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), among many others. These councils represent the very organs of the UN itself, working separately yet constantly collaborating to resolve international issues.

As a simulation, Model United Nations is a great forum for UIC students to practice diplomacy, public speaking skills, writing skills, compromise, and research. It is an exciting activity that brings international politics from the books to real life. Current officers are

Secretary General—Suhail Khan
Undersecretary General—Sharmista Dev
Rapporteur—Paras Bhavsar
Treasurer—Gonzalo Escobar
Academic Liason—Elizabeth Tangora
Faculty Advisor—Randall Smith

As of right now, the UIC Model UN team is working hard to host quite possibly the first tandem high school MUN conference in the country for fall 2004. Additionally, the team is getting ready for a few conferences, namely Midwest Model United Nations in St. Louis, Model United Nations Illinois at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and quite possibly even CHOMUN at the University of Chicago.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the MUN team at UIC, feel free to check out the website: www.cimun.org

assistant on a full time basis.” But it won’t be all work for her, she also intends to visit Spain, Italy, and Greece with a close friend. Another Honors College student, Elizabeth will be beginning an exciting career at IBM as an electrical engineer. She also intends to pursue a Master’s degree while working. Mike, a GPPA Medicine student has not decided what his plans are, but he says “I have felt pointed in the direction of medicine, ministry and the inner city.” All three students have very different goals and aspirations. The possibilities are endless with your degree from UIC.

There are so many opportunities available to new graduates, but if beginning a career is not the right path for you, there is always the option of participating in volunteer work such as *Teach for America* or *Americorps*. Many graduates of the Honors College have gone on to do amazing work overseas such as clinical work in India or health research in Taiwan. Whatever you are interested in, there is something out there for you!

Some websites that may be helpful:

U.S. volunteer work

www.americorps.org

www.teachforamerica.org

Finding a Job

www.careerbuilder.com

www.cimun.orgwww.monster.com

International volunteer work

www.i-to-i.com

A View from the Top:

The 11th Annual Honors College Ball!

March 13th, 2004

BY Kunjali Padhya

It is my pleasure to invite you all to the 11th Annual Honors College Ball, to be held March 13th, 2004 at the Mid-America Club. The Mid-America Club is located on the 80th floor of the Aon Center, providing 360 degree views of the Chicago lakefront and skyline. This unique location is sure to make the event one to remember. If you’re still not convinced, allow me to share with you the top ten reasons you should attend this year’s Ball!

1. It’s a great way to spend a night out on the town. You can enjoy a cocktail reception, three-course dinner, and evening of dancing, for a student ticket price of \$35, and faculty price of

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Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines!

MADISON SCHOLARSHIP

Do you plan on teaching American History, American government, or social studies at the secondary level? The James Madison Fellowship Program may offer you the funding that will help you achieve your professional goals.

The James Madison Fellowship Program awards up to \$24,000 to secondary teachers, grades 7-12, of American History, American government, or social studies who are interested in pursuing a master’s degree. Fellowship payments cover the actual costs of tuition, required fees, books, and room and board, but cannot exceed \$12,000 per academic year. For more information on the fellowship, please visit the Madison website at www.jamesmadison.com.

Regarding eligibility, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, and possess a bachelor’s degree or plan to receive a bachelor’s degree no later than August 31, 2004. Applicants who already have a graduate degree must wait at least three years from the date that degree was received before applying. All winners must agree to teach American history, government or social studies in grades 7-12 for no less than one year for each full academic year of study under the fellowship. **The Madison application deadline is March 1, 2004.**

UDALL SCHOLARSHIP

Are you environmentally conscious? Perhaps you are planning on creating an innovative, cost-efficient means of recycling waste, or maybe you would like to work on a plan for energy conservation for a major corporation or the government? Maybe you dream of setting environmental policy. If you are an environmentally concerned individual, you may be eligible for the Udall scholarship which will assist you in funding towards your undergraduate education.

Each year, the Udall Foundation awards undergraduate scholarships of up to \$5,000 to American juniors and seniors in fields related to the environment, and to Native American and Alaska Natives in fields related to health care or tribal policy.

Please be aware that students must be nominated for a Udall scholarship by their college’s Udall faculty representative, Beth Powers, from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs. Direct applications are not accepted by the foundation.

Regarding eligibility, applicants must be sophomores or juniors in the academic year in which they are applying and must be studying the environment or related fields. Native American and Alaskan Native students may also be studying health care or tribal public policy. Applicants must have a GPA of 4.0 or higher and be a U.S. citizen.

The UIC deadline is February 18, 2004. The national deadline for the Udall scholarship is March 3, 2004. Contact the Office of Special Scholarship Programs for more information on applying at 5-2477.

\$45. ALL UIC students, faculty and staff are welcome!

2. The spectacular view from the 80th floor of the Aon Center is not to be missed!

3. This year's Ball will once again feature a silent auction, with prizes like restaurant gift certificates, museum passes and sports tickets all available for bidding.

4. You'll be helping your fellow students. The auction proceeds will go towards two great causes: the first-ever HCAB Scholarship, and Project ESTEEM, an organization started by an Honors College alumnus, and coordinated and participated in by Honors College students. Project ESTEEM works with children at the Maryville shelters of Chicago to teach them

science concepts while at the same time improving their sense of self-esteem.

5. Did I mention the amazing view from the 80th floor? Imagine eating a wonderful dinner surrounded by the twinkling lights of the Chicago skyline!

6. You can dance the night away in your best formal attire!

7. Last year's Ball at the Navy Pier Crystal Gardens was attended by over 450 people. We expect great attendance again this year, so you won't want to miss out! Buy your tickets early!

8. You can enjoy the GREAT VIEW from all parts of the Mid-America Club, from the lobby to the Grill Room for cocktails and the Burnham Ballroom for dinner and dancing.

9. The Mid-America club is known for its superb food! You'll enjoy a salad, choice of chicken or vegetarian entree, and sumptuous dessert, all with coffee and tea service included in the ticket price.

10. All the reasons above, plus the fantastic VIEW FROM THE 80th FLOOR, are sure to make the 11th Annual Ball a very memorable evening. Your attendance will be what makes the night a success!

Tickets will go on sale in late January. Look for announcements on the Honors College Listserve for more information, and see you there on March 13th!

More Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines!

NSEP UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Are you looking for an opportunity to study abroad outside of Western Europe in a non-English speaking country? Are you also interested in working for the federal government? If you answered yes to both of these questions, the NSEP Undergraduate Scholarship may be the scholarship for you.

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) is a unique scholarship opportunity for U.S. undergraduates to study abroad. The NSEP awards scholarships to American students who are concerned with international issues in world regions that are critical to U.S. interests. Winners receive \$2,500-\$20,000 depending on the length of study, financial need and expenses associated with the program of study.

Candidates must demonstrate academic excellence, and should be able to articulate their need to study in the country they choose on the application. Candidates should be aware that winners are required to 'pay back' their time spent abroad through paid work for the federal government, or in higher education. An application for the scholarship can be downloaded at www.iie.org/nsep. **The UIC deadline is January 21, 2004. The national application deadline is February 12, 2004.**

For more information, please contact the Office of Special Scholarships.

GLAMOUR'S 2004 TOP 10 COLLEGE WOMEN COMPETITION

Are you very involved in campus or community activities? Have you excelled in classes? Could you use some extra money? Have you always wanted to appear on the pages of a popular women's magazine? Would you like a trip to NYC? If you are an outstanding junior student, the Glamour Top 10 College Women Competition may be your chance for national recognition.

The Glamour Top 10 College Women Competition recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. Winners receive \$1500, coverage in the October 2004 issue of Glamour, and an opportunity to meet with top female professionals during a trip to New York City.

Regarding eligibility, candidates should be junior students with high grade point averages and should demonstrate strong leadership abilities on campus and in the greater community. **The national application deadline is February 10, 2004.** An application for the competition can be downloaded at <http://us.glamour.com/>.

For more information, please contact the Office of Special Scholarships. Office of Special Scholarship Programs

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www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp

A Night at the Movies with Sue and Aparna

“I feel it in my fingers...I feel it in my toes....Christmas is all around us...come on and let it snow...”

We recently saw the best holiday movie ever – *Love Actually*. Although the title may scream “chick flick,” even the most manliest man can appreciate this movie. The story begins and ends at the arrival terminal at Heathrow Airport. There is so much in between, however, there is never a dry moment. Rather than the typical boy-girl romance with a traditional ending, the director of *Love Actually* has an uncanny way of tying together over ten really cute and believable relationships.

Sue: Which story line do you think was the cutest?

Aparna: Well, any scene with HOT KARL....but all of them were pretty good. I especially liked the one with the Portugese girl. It was adorable. It really proved that love has no barriers, including language. What about you?

Sue: The little boy and his father had such a nice relationship. It had the potential of being boring, but I was hooked until the very end. I think the whole audience kept hoping the son would hook up with his true love.

Aparna: There was one story that was questionable in my mind – the story with Emma Thompson, her husband, and his secretary. I wasn't sure where it was supposed to be heading, and I am still not sure what the outcome was.

Sue: I agree, but I think they did a good job by leaving it open though. That was the one romance that I didn't want to develop. The secretary wasn't even all that pretty, she had such huge lips! What did you think about the guy who went to Wisconsin?

Aparna: Yeah, I think that definitely says something about the way our culture is viewed. I am sure if the guys at UIC knew what kinds of girls were in Wisconsin, they'd go there more often. The other story that was good was with Kiera Knightly's character. Her wedding was fabulous. The kink they threw in certainly caught my surprise. I appreciated how that story was handled. It showed a lot of self-restraint and respect.

Sue: It was refreshing. I wish more people today would act that way, everyone should go watch this movie, and learn something from it. The romances were managed so maturely.

Aparna: But they weren't all romances, which is why the movie was so believable. It was a mixture of good and bad, just like life. It left you with a warm feeling inside without the overly sweet *Full House* effect, like with Karl and the office romance. That didn't really end the way they both wanted it to, but it showed that to make a romance work, you need to make sacrifices.

Sue: They did have one cheesy story line though, but I guess that is to be expected.

Aparna: Yeah, the one with Hugh Grant was kind of superficial. But this added to the movie's effect: a mixture of serious story lines with more light hearted humorous ones.

Sue: The first line spoken in the movie, “love actually is all around us,” really summed up the movie. Besides the romantic kind of love, some stories portrayed family love and friendship love. It's a movie I could watch over and over again. I loved the feeling I had when I walked out of the theater.

Aparna: I totally agree. I just loved how all the different story lines stayed so believably connected throughout! Every character and story had some overlap with others so that there was no confusion. And yet at the same time made the movie move so much faster than the typical holiday romance story.

LET IT SNOW, LET
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SNOW...
HAVE A SAFE,
AND HAPPY
SEMESTER BREAK!

