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Alumni Association Launches Scholarship

The Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA) recently established the HCAA Scholarship to provide assistance to Honors students with financial need. Said current HCAA President Eric Leafblad: "At our June 2011 meeting, the HCAA members decided that we wanted to do something to help Honors students who had unmet financial need. Right then and there we decided to start a scholarship, and since that time have we raised over \$4,600."

Leafblad believes the HCAA Scholarship can be a real rallying point for alumni. "We all benefited from our time in the Honors College, and this is an easy way to give back and have a direct impact on current students. I would love to see this scholarship grow to the point that we could endow it. I know that other UIC alumni groups have launched endowed scholarships by pooling the resources of their alumni base, and I know we should do this in the Honors College."

HCAA awarded two scholarships in the 2012 academic year. The spring recipient of the HCAA Scholarship was Evangeline Courter, a first-year student in the College of Architecture and the Arts majoring in theatre performance. Evy received her award at the 19th Annual Honors College Ball and Dinner on March 3, 2012. HCAA intends to award this scholarship every year at the Ball, thereby starting a new tradition.

You can help deserving Honors students who have great potential, but also great financial need. Donate to the HCAA Scholarship Fund by visiting www.uic.edu/honors/alumni/giving or by contacting Lisa Domkowski at 312-355-0314 or at ldomkows@uic.edu.

Honors Alumni Receive Top UIAA Awards

For two years running, dedicated Honors alumni have received awards at the Annual Honors College Ball and Dinner from the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA), recognizing their dedication and service to the Honors College. At the 2011 Ball, Andres Hernandez (1992, LAS) received the Alumni Loyalty Award for his decades of involvement with the Honors College, including attending every single Ball.



HCAA President and 2012 UIAA Constituent Leadership Award winner Eric Leafblad presents Evangeline Courter with the HCAA Scholarship at the 2012 Honors College Ball.



Vice President and Associate Chancellor for Alumni Relations Arlene Norsym presents Andres Hernandez with the UIAA Alumni Loyalty Award at the 2011 Honors College Ball.

At the 2012 Ball, Eric Leafblad (1991, LAS) received the Constituent Leadership Award for his service as President of the HCAA and as a committed mentor to students. Congratulations Andres and Eric!

UIC HONORS
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2012

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The Newsletter for the UIC Community, Alumni, Parents, and Friends of the Honors College



Former Governor Jim Edgar and Honors College Dean Bette L. Bottoms meet before Governor Edgar gives his talk, the Future of Illinois.

Honors Hosts Government Officials, CEOs, and Other Leaders in its Leadership Seminar

For the past four semesters, the Honors College has hosted a successful leadership seminar taught by Professor Michael Miller from the College of Business Administration. This one-credit seminar has featured alumni and friends of the College who are leaders in their respective careers, and who share their personal reflections with Honors students about what leadership means to them.

Said Miller: "Teaching the Honors College Seminar on Leadership has been a great experience and learning opportunity for both my students and myself. We have been able to interact with very successful leaders, many of them alumni, from a variety of fields and areas of expertise. The Honors College students have been great to work with in their quest to understand and develop leadership skills. They bring a lot of enthusiasm and desire to learn to the classroom."

The lectures have focused on timely issues such as entrepreneurship, management, diversity, and civic engagement. Intentionally small in size, but open to the entire campus, these interactive sessions have provided a forum for leaders of today to meet the leaders of tomorrow. The list of guest speakers has included three UIC alumnae who lead corporations: US Cellular CEO Mary Dillon; Lifeway Foods CEO Julie Smolyansky; and BioTools, Inc. CEO Rina Dukor, herself an Honors College alumna. Other notable speakers were University of Illinois Trustee member Lawrence Oliver II, Chief Counsel of Investigations for The Boeing Company, and UIC alumnus and James Scholar Michael DeSantiago, President of Primera.



Trustee Lawrence Oliver II was a guest lecturer and had lunch with students on October 11, 2011: L-R: Associate Dean Stacie Williams, theatre performance major Jazzlyn Luckett, Dean Bette L. Bottoms, Trustee Oliver, Provost Lon S. Kaufman, political science major Emily Marr, and Associate Dean Sara Hall.

In addition to the seminar, the Honors College has twice co-sponsored the Future of Chicago course taught by Political Science Department Head and Honors College Faculty Fellow Professor Dick W. Simpson, hosting private luncheons for Honors students with such key government officials as former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

The Honors College is very grateful for the philanthropic support of the Caterpillar Foundation, which made the leadership seminar and the co-sponsorship of the Future of Chicago course possible.

Message from the Dean

Dear Honors College Alumni, Faculty Members, Parents, and Friends:

It's been another wonderful year in the Honors College, as you will see in this edition of *Honorable Mentions*.

The *Times Higher Education* of the United Kingdom has just ranked UIC as third in the nation and 11th in the world among young universities, defined as "a new breed of global universities—those that have managed to join the world's top table in just decades rather than centuries." UIC achieved this status on the basis of research volume and influence, teaching and learning excellence, international outlook, and industry innovation—accomplishments paralleled in the central activities and priorities of the Honors College. Our students assist in the research, participate in the conferences and community engagement projects, go on the study abroad ventures, work in the internships, and study in the educational programs that garnered UIC this stellar recognition. Providing opportunities and rewards such as these to deserving undergraduates is the core of what we do.



Every day, the student lounge, study room, computer laboratory, and classrooms in the Honors College positively buzz with the ideas and energy of some of the most motivated and accomplished students to be found anywhere. We grow larger and stronger every day. Our enrollment

topped 1,500 for the first time, we just celebrated our largest graduating class ever, and we received a record-breaking number of first-year applications. We now look forward to welcoming the Class of 2016, the most diverse class ever.

There are so many ways that you can influence Honors College students. I challenge you to contact me and find out how you can get involved as a scholarship donor, career mentor, senior capstone project supervisor, member of the Honors College Alumni Association, interviewer of prospective students, and so on. Behind every incredible success story in these pages are supportive Honors College staff, faculty, parents, family members, and friends.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Honors College. For more details about the accomplishments of our amazing students, read on, and as always, I would love to hear from you!

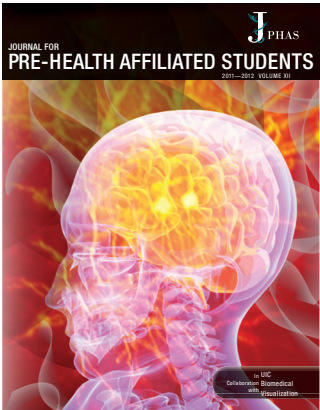
Best wishes,
Bette L. Bottoms

Bette L. Bottoms
Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
Professor of Psychology

Creating Connections with Honors Publications

It's no secret that Honors College students are a talented, motivated bunch. So it should also come as no surprise that the Honors College boasts five student-run publications, with styles and subjects including news, satire, creative writing, and scientific reporting.

Students, faculty, and staff gathered in April to celebrate a year of hard work and the release of all five publications: *The Ampersand*, *The Asterisk*, *UIC OneWorld*, *The Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS)*, and *Red Shoes Review*. In a packed room vibrating with conversation, the faculty-student and student-student connections fostered by the publications were evident. The Honors College student publications are an important point of contact for community building in the Honors College, a place where connections between students and faculty, peer relationships among students, and ties between the Honors College and the larger campus are formed and strengthened. A key to the journals' success this year has been the editorial leadership of Jenn Hawe, an English doctoral student who has worked carefully on structural and editorial issues for all the publications. In her words, "The student writers and editors are so self-motivated, so driven, and so fun to work with. They're so committed to creating top-quality publications – it's wonderful to see how well they set goals and work in teams on their own initiative."



artwork courtesy of JPHAS

Working on an Honors College publication is, for many students, an important part of the college experience. Senior Sasidhar Madugula, an editor for both *JPHAS* and *The Ampersand*, said he was particularly proud of how far *The Ampersand* has come in the two years he's been involved. Students working on that journal have, with the help of committed Honors faculty and staff advisors, introduced a new logo, a streamlined editorial process, and a new mission statement. In fact, all of the publications are professionalizing, updating mission statements, developing diversity policies, and implementing strategies to keep their publications moving forward.

For the past two years, Honors College publications have provided the primary content for the *UIC Freshman Read*, an anthology of student writing that is the centerpiece of a campus-wide program for first-year students. The program accompanying the anthology includes events such as poetry readings and film screenings, intended to give freshmen a common experience. This year, student editors from each journal nominated two pieces for inclusion in the 2012 anthology, which takes "my first year" as its theme. With offerings ranging from poetry to a report on public education in Chile, these contributions bring exciting perspectives and topics to the Freshman Read program and build the Honors College's connection to campus life.

Former Dean Named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost



Lon S. Kaufman, Professor of Biological Sciences, has been named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost for UIC. Said Honors College Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Bette L. Bottoms: "I am so pleased that Lon has been named Provost. He did a tremendous job when he was Vice Provost and Dean of the Honors College, and I am proud to follow him. He has been a fantastic colleague, friend, and mentor to me for many years. The Honors College is now stronger than ever, largely due to the initiatives Lon launched that grew from his deep understanding of and respect for what the Honors College means to this campus."

Honor Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2011

The following individuals and organizations have made gifts to the Honors College in fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011). Thanks to their support, the Honors College is able to offer enhanced student programming, scholarships, and financial support for students engaged in research, study abroad, and other academic endeavors. We thank all who have given so far in 2012, and we will include a list of donors in fiscal year 2012 in our next issue.

Thank you to all of our donors—we greatly appreciate your support!

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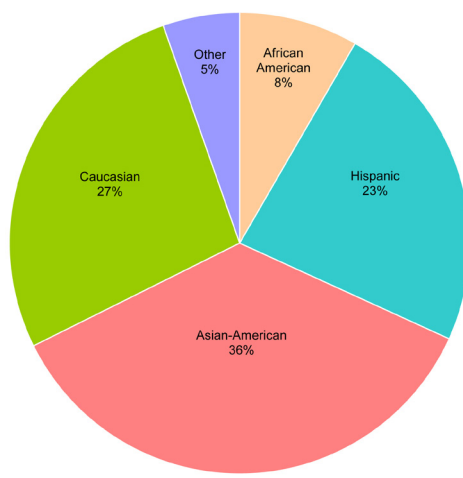
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Projected Enrollment for Fall 2012 Incoming First-Year Class



Honors applications rose in 2011 to an all-time high of over 1,500 new, continuing, and transfer students. As a result, the entering Class of 2016 will be the most diverse in the history of the College, nearly mirroring the diversity of the total campus.

Faculty Member Wins Awards

Dr. Marsha Cassidy, Lecturer in the UIC Department of English, received the 2012 Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Pedagogy Award, which recognizes achievement in the areas of instruction, publication, development of educational materials, and service. In her nomination letter, Dean Bottoms wrote: "Marsha is one of the anchoring Faculty of the Honors College. Her skills in the classroom, her commitment to student excellence, her mentoring and service contributions, and her reliable curricular achievements all define an instructor of the highest merit. The Honors College would not be the same without her."

Dr. Cassidy also received two other awards within the past year: the 2011 University of Illinois Distinguished Service Award, which honors alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Illinois for extraordinary commitment, dedication, and service, and UIC's Silver Circle Award for Teaching Excellence for 2011. "I enjoy the intellectual engagement of Honors College students. Biology majors are just as interested in my classes as humanity majors," Dr. Cassidy said. Congratulations to Dr. Cassidy for her achievements and her ongoing commitment to the College and its students.

New Scholarship Program Provides Unprecedented Support

The University of Illinois has recently expanded the long-standing President's Award Program (PAP) to create PAP Honors Scholars, a pilot scholarship program benefitting UIC Honors College students. Said Dean Bottoms: "PAP Honors is the most significant scholarship program in the history of the Honors College." Nearly 80 students will be provided with full tuition, room, and board for four years. Eligibility for PAP Honors is based on ACT composite score, class rank, and one of the following criteria: high-achieving newly admitted freshmen from (a) historically underrepresented groups; (b) Illinois counties that have sent an average of two or fewer students per academic year to the University for the past five years; (c) dependent students whose families cannot contribute to the cost of their education. Scholars will participate in a one-week PAP Honors Summer College program, in a three-day leadership program (Project LEAD), in follow-up cohort meetings during the academic year, and will have full access to the wealth of academic enrichment and support of the Honors College.

This scholarship program represents the Honors College's continued commitment to supporting top students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. It is a level of support the College hopes to one day be able to offer every student. By providing high-achieving students with full financial and academic support for four years, the Honors College will not only be able to attract the most motivated and talented students to UIC, but also retain and graduate those students, allowing the College to grow in exciting ways.

This program has real impact not just on the students' educations, but also on their lives and families. In the words of a PAP Honors Scholar's parent, "My wife and I are bereft of words adequate to express our profound gratitude to you, the Honors College, and the UIC academic community for this exceedingly magnificent PAP scholarship...Generations to come of our family will know about, and be inspired by, this monumental occurrence."

Who's Who in the College: New Staff and the First Ever Post-Doctoral Fellow

The Honors College is proud to announce the addition of our two newest staff members: Assistant Dean & Director of Admissions Esther Pandian-Riske and IT Technical Associate Julio Chavarria. Other key staff members also joined us within the past year. Dr. Sara Hall, Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies and Chair of the Moving Image Arts minor, serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Jill Huynh is an Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, and handles our communications efforts. Ekaterina Pirozhenko, who recently received a Ph.D. in Germanic Studies from UIC, joined the Honors College as our first ever Post-Doctoral Fellow in Teaching and Mentoring. Dr. Pirozhenko graduated from the Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia, and earned a Master's in German at the University of Northern Iowa. The Honors College is proud to have such a talented staff dedicated to serving our students.



Top (l-r): Dean Bette L. Bottoms, Brian Ward, Lisa Domkowski, Ekaterina Pirozhenko, Fiona O'Connor, Jerry Jimenez; Middle: Christina Ruiz, Jill Huynh; Bottom: Assoc. Dean Hui-Ching Chang, Assoc. Dean Sara Hall, Sarah Gardiner, Eliza Ycas, and Assoc. Dean Stacie Williams. Not pictured: Assistant Dean Esther Pandian-Riske, Julio Chavarria.

Honors Students Once Again Win Prestigious National and Campus Awards

The Honors College is thrilled to announce that during the 2011 and 2012 academic years the following Honors College students and graduates have been named recipients of national and campus awards:

- Fulbright Fellowship**—sends students abroad for 10 months to study, conduct research, or teach English.
- **Kevin Conley**, 2011 graduate, kinesiology, taught English to high school students in South Korea in 2011-2012
 - **Julianne Faust**, 2011 graduate, applied psychology, conducted her research on eating disorders in Toronto, Canada in 2011-2012
 - **Jessica Galea**, 2011 graduate, anthropology, studied biological anthropology at the University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom in 2011-2012
 - **Sarah Isel**, 2011 graduate, political science, taught English in Jordan in 2011-2012
 - **Anothai Kaewkaen**, 2011 graduate, English, studied at the College of Dramatic Arts, Buditpatanasilpa Institute and at the Arporn Ngam Dance Theatre in Bangkok, Thailand in 2011-2012
 - **Ada Moadshiri**, 2004 graduate, biological sciences, and 2006 graduate, public health, researched food security policy development in the island kingdom of Tonga with the Tonga Health Promotion Foundation in 2011-2012



Wenji Guo

courtesy of Wenji Guo

- Gilman International Scholarship**—for students who are often underrepresented in study abroad.
- **Grant Buhr**, senior, sociology, Ecuador, awarded in 2011
 - **Dylon Busser**, senior, biochemistry, Thailand, awarded in 2011
 - **Rossie Rangel**, 2011 graduate, history, Italy, awarded in 2011
 - **Naheed Ahmad**, senior, biological sciences, Morocco, awarded in 2012
 - **Alexander Guevara**, junior, criminology, law, and justice, Morocco, awarded in 2012
 - **Osamah Hasan**, junior, biological sciences, Botswana, awarded in 2012
 - **Carline Joseph**, 2012 graduate, kinesiology, Botswana, awarded in 2012



Hugh Vondracek

courtesy of Hugh Vondracek

- Goldwater Scholarship**—for students committed to research careers in math, science, or engineering.
- **Alan Tang**, 2012 graduate, biochemistry and mathematics, awarded in 2011
 - **Wenji Guo**, junior, biological sciences, awarded in 2012

- National Science Foundation**—for graduate study in science, math, engineering, and the social sciences.
- **Pamela Pimentel**, 2009 graduate, psychology, to fund her doctoral research at Florida International University on factors that cause juveniles to falsely confess to crimes, awarded in 2012
 - **Xing Zhang**, 2012 graduate, economics, to fund her PhD in economics at Cornell University, awarded in 2012

- Phi Kappa Phi \$5,000 Graduate Fellowship**—to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study.
- **Xing Zhang**, 2012 graduate, economics, to fund her PhD in economics at Cornell University, awarded in 2012



Sasidhar Madugula

courtesy of Sasidhar Madugula

- Schweitzer Fellowship**—provides students with opportunities to design and implement innovative year-long projects that will help vulnerable communities improve their health and well-being.
- **Anand Sandesara**, 2009 graduate, biological sciences and history, awarded in 2011
 - **Edleda James**, senior, nursing, awarded in 2012
 - **Sodabeh Etninan**, 2004 graduate, biological sciences, awarded in 2012

- U.S. State Department Critical Languages Scholarship**—provides overseas group-based summer intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for eight to ten weeks.
- **Hugh Vondracek**, sophomore, political science, to study Turkish at the Tömer Institute, Bursa, Turkey, awarded in 2012

- Whitaker Fellowship**—for emerging leaders in U.S. biomedical engineering overseas to undertake a self-designed project that will enhance their own careers within the field.
- **Sasidhar Madugula**, 2012 graduate, bioengineering, awarded in 2012

- Donald and Leah Riddle Prize**—presented annually to the outstanding senior at UIC based on academic excellence and leadership.
- **Alexandra Plattos**, 2011 graduate, music-vocal performance, awarded in 2011
 - **Nicholas Flores**, 2012 graduate, philosophy, awarded in 2012

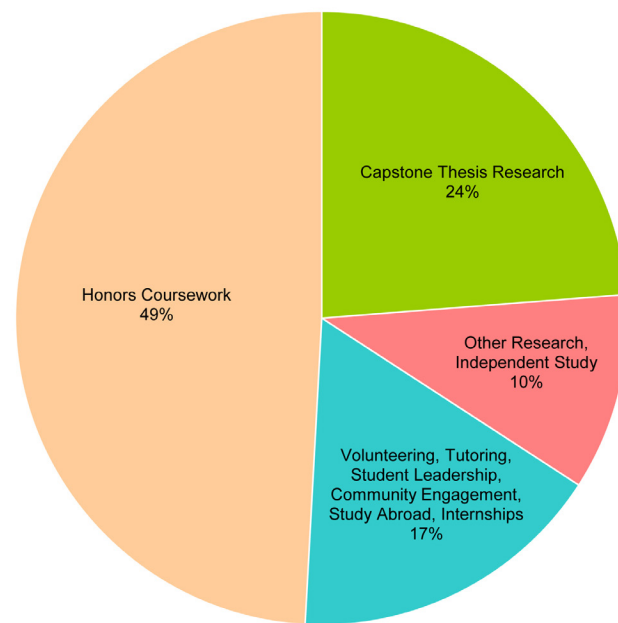


Nicholas Flores

photo: Joshua Clark

- Lincoln Laureate Award**—presented annually by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois to recognize one senior at each four-year degree granting institution within Illinois who embodies academic and extra-curricular excellence.
- **Joshua Kannankeril**, 2011 graduate, biological sciences and chemistry, awarded in 2010
 - **Nicholas Flores**, 2012 graduate, philosophy, awarded in 2011

Honors Activities for the 2011-12 Academic Year



The Honors College Engages All of Its Students

One reason for Honors students' impressive graduation rate is that the Honors College actively promotes what literature refers to as "high-impact educational practices." These practices, which have been shown to engage undergraduates and thereby increase student success in college, include first-year seminars, community volunteer work, undergraduate research, internships, and capstone thesis projects.

Consistent with UIC's stature as one of the top 50 public research universities in the United States, the Honors College particularly encourages students to engage in undergraduate research. In fact, this past year, around 300 students completed their Honors Capstone Thesis projects, a required, in-depth, original examination of a topic conducted over two semesters under the supervision of a discipline-specific faculty advisor and with the guidance of the student's Honors Fellow. Importantly, an additional 250 students conducted research under the supervision of UIC faculty, resulting in 34% of all Honors students participating in research at some point during the academic year. The results were visible at the campus-wide 2012 UIC Student Research Forum, where 84% of the undergraduates participating and 9 out of 12 undergraduate prize winners were Honors students. Philanthropic support allowed the College to provide research grants totaling \$40,000 in 2012.

New Endowed Scholarships Make a Real Difference in Students' Lives

We are proud to announce that two new endowed scholarships have been established to assist Honors College students. The first is the Van Hecke and Baechle Student Award Fund. UIC Associate Vice Chancellor for Development Chuck Van Hecke and his wife Dr. Cathy Baechle created and began contributing to an endowed fund several years ago. When the fund grew to the point where student awards could be made, they decided to designate the fund to assist Honors students with financial need. Honors College Dean Bette L. Bottoms praised this new award:

"Chuck and his wife Cathy have been supporters of the Honors College for years, and we are so grateful for their decision to designate this scholarship for Honors students." The first recipient, Erin Munkacsy, will soon graduate with a degree in biological sciences, and has been accepted into a doctoral program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.



UIC Associate Vice Chancellor for Development Chuck Van Hecke and his wife Dr. Cathy Baechle (right) meet with Erin Munkacsy (center), the first recipient of the Van Hecke and Baechle Student Award.

courtesy of the Honors College

The second endowed scholarship was started by Honors alumnus Dr. Kevin Desouza and his wife Sally. Desouza earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Information and Decision Sciences in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Management Information Systems in 2006. The Sally and Kevin Desouza Family Scholarship Award is presented annually to an Honors student in the College of Business Administration.

Sally Desouza explained the decision to start this scholarship: "We hope to support the best and brightest at UIC—students who not only excel academically but who also go beyond the classroom and make a positive impact on the UIC community through community service and leadership in student organizations." Said Dean Bottoms: "Kevin loved his time in the Honors College and wants to make it easier for other students to have similar experiences. With this scholarship, he and Sally will support current Honors students who share a passion for learning that goes above and beyond the classroom."

The first recipient of the Desouza scholarship was Otilia Flandro, who worked with Dr. Cheryl Nakata, Professor of Marketing and 2011 Honors College Faculty Fellow of the Year, to conduct her capstone research on the international marketing of Romanian wines. Since graduating in 2011, Otilia has been working in market research, most recently as a survey research analyst at comScore, Inc. Erin and Otilia attended the annual Donor Reception with the Dean on November 10, 2011, where they gave heartfelt remarks to those assembled, publicly expressing their thanks for these scholarships.



Sally and Kevin Desouza enjoy meeting 2011 Faculty Fellow of the Year Cheryl Nakata and Otilia Flandro, the first recipient of the Sally and Kevin Desouza Family Scholarship.

courtesy of the Honors College

Faculty Profile: Matthew Lippman

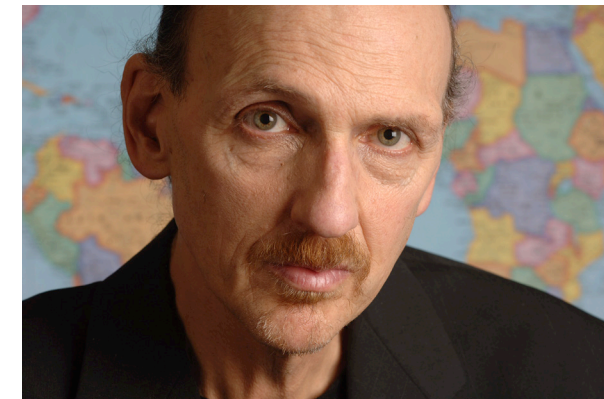


Photo by Lloyd DeGrane/UIC Alumni Magazine

Matthew Lippman, a longtime Honors College Fellow and professor in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice, has lent his energy and talents to the Honors College for over twenty years. He has seen the Honors College grow from a small program—he recalls one graduation ceremony in the early years with thirty students and two faculty members in attendance—to 1,500 students and over 300 Faculty Fellows. In his words: "The three deans who succeeded Dean Kerr have built on his vision to create the marvelous institution that we have today." But Professor Lippman himself has also been instrumental in bringing to life the Honors College's vision for outstand-

ing teaching, scholarship, and public service. In addition to his work in the classroom and as a scholar, Professor Lippman is active in human rights and international law. This triple commitment—to teaching, scholarship, and advocacy—distinguishes Professor Lippman's career and his contributions to the Honors College. The accomplishments of Professor Lippman's students speak to the strength of his teaching, for which he has won nearly every teaching award at UIC. Five of his advisees have won UIC's Donald and Leah Riddle Prize for Outstanding Graduating Senior, and five have been named Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureates. 2005 Honors alumna and Riddle Prize recipient Ana Petrovic stated: "Professor Lippman has been just as instrumental as my parents in guiding me through educational, professional, and even personal challenges. In mentoring me, he was always careful to give me both objective advice as a professor and personal advice as a friend. He motivated me to become a better student and continues to inspire me to become a better person."

Professor Lippman values the opportunities to experiment with courses and to collaborate with students and faculty that teaching in the Honors College has afforded him. One personal highlight was an innocence clinic, run in collaboration with Associate Dean Ralph Ruebner of the John Marshall Law School. The clinic provided a unique opportunity for both Honors College undergraduates and John Marshall Law students to argue before the State of Illinois Prisoner Review Board on behalf of convicts with meritorious claims to innocence. Professor Lippman also continues to stay engaged with developments in international law. He is a member of the Nuremberg Scholars Law Group, a joint effort of historians and legal scholars, which files human rights briefs in federal courts. Currently, the group is working on a brief for a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that corporations should be held responsible for human rights violations.

What advice does Professor Lippman have for current Honors College students? "This is a marathon, not a sprint. The question is not where you are today, but where you will be in four years. UIC is a dream machine that creates 'brilliant futures.' Do not be hesitant to approach faculty members for advice or to get involved in their research."

The Honors College Family Loses Dr. Howard Kerr, Former Dean

Dr. Howard H. Kerr, who served as Honors College Dean from 1985 to 1996, passed away August 14, 2011 at the age of 80 after a lengthy illness. Dean Kerr was instrumental in the creation and expansion of the Honors College. He was the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Academic Programs at the time the College was established, and was the longest-serving Dean. He left quite a legacy to our College and to our campus, and he is truly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

that challenged me academically and helped me expand my knowledge and skill set. I recall telling Dean Kerr how much it meant to me that he gave me a chance and believed in me. I never forgot that. I went on to obtain a joint Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master of Nonprofit Management from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1993.



courtesy of UIC Photo Archives

Dean Kerr: A Tribute

By Rachel Klugman Seeger, Class of 1989

I transferred to UIC in 1987 after leaving the University of Kansas on academic probation and spending a semester at the College of Lake County, where I made a 4.0. In my first two quarters at UIC, I took 28 hours per quarter and again made a 4.0. At some point around this time, I received a letter from Dean Kerr stating that he would like to meet with me to discuss entering the Honors College. I remember saying to my mom, "He must have the wrong Rachel." Once in the UIC Honors College, I took many classes

After being a Presidential Management Fellow, I began my federal career in 1993 with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a legislative analyst. Today, I am the Director of Communications and Acting Chief Budget Officer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. Quite a ride since being asked to take that break from the University of Kansas! I often credit UIC and Dean Kerr for where I am today—he was quite simply an awesome mentor who saw past what was on paper and recognized students for their full potential. What a tremendous person he was. I know that his impact on UIC has left a strong and enduring legacy throughout the alumni network and beyond.