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UIC HONORS COLLEGE
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Honors Alumna Recognized for Loyalty and Service

For the third straight year, the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA) has recognized an Honors graduate for loyalty and service to the College. At the Honors College Convocation on May 8, Honors alumna (2005, LAS) Ms. Ana Petrovic was awarded the 2013 University of Illinois Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service. Ms. Petrovic, a staff attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, also served as the alumni speaker for the event, and reflected on her experience in the Honors College during her remarks. Here are excerpts from those remarks:

Coming to UIC was one of the best decisions of my life. I had wonderful mentors in the Honors College, and received tremendous academic, personal, and even financial support from the Honors College Community.



Ms. Ana Petrovic addresses those gathered at the Honors College Convocation on May 8, 2013.

I encourage you to appreciate and brag about the UIC community. To lead by example, I'm going to briefly brag about my close circle of friends from UIC, many of whom were in the Honors College:

- Hemant Mehta now teaches math and coaches debate at Neuqua Valley High School. He has also published three books; has been featured on CNN, Fox News, and the Wall Street Journal; and has also contributed to NPR and the Washington Post.
- Neil Iyengar is a physician who is now doing fellowship in oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York City.
- Anne Kiraly-Alvarez is an Occupational Therapist who has

co-authored a new version of the OT Assessment tool. She is a conference chair of the Illinois OT Association, and works for the Indian Prairie School District.

- Manisha Sahay Mitra is a physician who is completing her fellowship in neurology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She has published and presented research related to women's health and neurology issues.
- Karim Basaria is a graduate of Northwestern Law School. He is currently clerking for Judge Kendall in the Northern District of Illinois and will be working at the prominent law firm, Sidley Austin.
- Ian Williams is a graduate of Northwestern Law School. In his first jury trial, he obtained an \$8.3 million dollar verdict in favor of his client. He is now clerking for Judge Pallmeyer of the Northern District of Illinois.
- Elizabeth O'Brien is a graduate of Loyola Law School, and has recently been named as a partner to a prominent law firm based in Chicago, Stahl Cowen, LLP.

So, I encourage you to brag. I also encourage you to remain connected. I remained involved with UIC throughout law school. One reality that you will quickly encounter as you pursue your careers is that most opportunities open up through who you know—networking. Fortunately, you are part of a strong network that will support you, but you need to remain visible.

And, once you succeed, give back—through mentoring, volunteering, and also financially when you are able. Many students, including you, are dependent upon such generosity. The more support we can offer to our community, the more we will all benefit.

The Honors College is proud of Ana and grateful for her contributions. Congratulations!

UIC HONORS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

2013 – 2014

HONORABLE MENTIONS

For the Alumni, Parents, Faculty, Students, and Friends of the UIC Honors College

Friend of the Honors College Receives Major Alumni Award

Ms. Alison R. Perona, Inspector General for the Chicago Park District, is a 2013 recipient of the University of Illinois Alumni Association's City Partner Award.

Remarked Dean Bottoms: "Alison is an outstanding example of a public servant whose commitment throughout her career to independent oversight and enforcement has made a significant mark on Chicago and beyond. Alison currently serves as the Inspector General for the Chicago Park District, and previously served as the Inspector General for the Chicago Transit Authority. I have had the privilege of knowing Alison as a colleague and friend for over 20 years. It was a pleasure to nominate her for this award, and to invite her to participate in the newly created UIC Honors College Community Partner Board. As a board member, she provides valuable advice regarding civic and alumni engagement."

Alison was honored on Friday, October 11, 2013 at the Alumni FiveAwards Banquet. Congratulations, Alison!



Alison R. Perona (MA 2003, LAS) and Bette L. Bottoms at the Alumni Five Awards Banquet



Wood Scholar Announced!
Article on p. 2.

Kerry Wood, Dean Bette L. Bottoms, and Sarah Wood at the joint press conference on April 24, 2013 to announce the establishment of the Kerry and Sarah Wood Family Foundation Scholarship in the UIC Honors College.

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Honors Welcomes Largest Freshman Class Ever



This year's incoming class of nearly 400 first-year students is the largest in Honors College history, bringing the College total to 1,588 outstanding students (and 350 Faculty Fellows) from across the university. Welcome to all our new students, including transfers and new upper-class UIC students!

courtesy of the Honors College

Message from the Dean

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

As we enter the 2013-2014 academic year, the Honors College makes a strong impression – perhaps the strongest in its history. As the college has grown to 1588 outstanding students and over 350 Faculty Fellows from every discipline, so too have the students’ impressive accomplishments, the Honors initiatives supporting them, and the Honors College’s value to UIC.

The UIC Honors College delivers unmistakable value to UIC in myriad ways. For example, the Honors College allows UIC to compete with universities having more pres-



tigious reputations in recruiting top students. In fact, 65% of this year’s Honors freshmen said that they “would not have come to UIC had it not been for the Honors College.” Also, the enhanced academic opportunity, challenge, and support provided by the Honors College allows UIC to ensure the success of outstand-

ing students. Students who have been members of the Honors College have higher average GPAs, graduate at higher rates, conduct more research, lead more worthwhile causes, and win more local and national awards. They excel in the classroom, in the laboratory, in the cultural and intellectual spaces of Chicago through the Chicago Signature Honors Program, and in the world through study abroad.

The Honors College’s value to the campus also emerges from its role as a development ground for programs that are later expanded to the campus at large for the benefit of all students (e.g., the Undergraduate Research Experience, courses involving Intergroup Dialogue pedagogy), and from programs such as the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Teaching and Mentoring, wherein new UIC PhDs are prepared for quality liberal arts faculty positions, and Honors students benefit from fresh young faculty-in-residence.

The success of the Honors College is captured well in this note I recently received from a new student: “I am confident I will fit in perfectly at UIC, mainly because the Honors College has made me feel so comfortable and at ease. I have no fears of college anymore because the Honors College truly made me feel safe; the advisors and faculty genuinely care about my well-being. I am so fortunate to be a part of such a great college.”

I also feel fortunate to be a part of this great Honors College.

Best wishes,

Bette L. Bottoms

Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
Professor of Psychology

College Teams with Wood Family Foundation

With Governor Pat Quinn in attendance, on April 24, 2013, the Honors College held a joint press conference at UIC with the Wood Family Foundation to make a major announcement: the establishment of the Kerry and Sarah Wood Family Foundation Scholarship in the Honors College. Ms. Gabriella Santoyo, a Lawndale resident who graduated with honors from Chicago Bulls College Preparatory High School, was named as the Wood Scholar. As an incoming first-year student, she received a comprehensive scholarship, covering full tuition, fees, assessments, books, room and board, and laptop computer. The College will provide housing during the summer to allow participation in summer coursework, undergraduate research, an internship, or study abroad.



Wood Scholar Gabriella Santoyo

The Wood Family Foundation, established in 2011 by retired star Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood and his wife Sarah, works to improve the lives of youth in four Chicago neighborhoods: Austin, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Lawndale.

Dean Bottoms remarked: “This is the most comprehensive scholarship program in the history of the Honors College, and we are honored to be the public stewards of this generous gift. Through the support of the Wood Family Foundation, an outstanding student who otherwise would not have the means to achieve her goals will have access to a transformative educational experience.”



Provost Lon Kaufman, UIC Student Member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees Ken Thomas, and Governor Pat Quinn at the press conference.

Kerry Wood explained: “We are excited for this opportunity, for children in our target neighborhoods, to achieve their dreams through this scholarship program. Our foundation’s focus is to improve the lives of children and what better way than to concentrate on giving these children a bright future.”

.....

GPPA: A Strong Honors College Partner

The Honors College maintains a strong partnership with the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions (GPPA) program, which allows a limited number of first-year students to be admitted to UIC with guaranteed admission to one of several professional degree programs, provided they follow a specific curriculum and meet established performance criteria. All GPPA programs require or strongly recommend that students are members of the Honors College, ensuring their education is enhanced by the Honors curriculum and that they receive support from Honors Advisors, Faculty Fellows, and other Honors College resources, in addition to the many resources provided by GPPA. Approximately 12% of applicants were admitted to GPPA programs for fall 2013, including 56 in Medicine, 39 in Pharmacy, 15 in Engineering, seven in Physical Therapy, and five in Dentistry.

Honor Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2013

The following individuals and organizations have made gifts to the Honors College in fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013). 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.

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

Chancellor’s Circle Donors: \$2,500+

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Truefitt & Hill
Urban Oasis

Now is a great time to become a supporter of the college with your gift to the annual fund. Simply log on to our online giving page at www.uic.edu/honors/alumni/giving and make your gift today! Or contact Lisa Domkowski at 312.355.0134 or ldomkows@uic.edu.

PAP Honors: Reflections on my First Year



Ms. Karelle Webb joined the Honors College as part of the initial cohort of President's Award Program Honors Scholars, a scholarship program that provides a cohort of qualified students with full tuition, room, and board for four years. Now beginning her sophomore year, Karelle reflects on her first-year experience.

Being a member of the Honors College has given me the opportunity to network with students having similar ambitions, yet allows me to be involved in a diverse community of thought. As a recipient of the prestigious President's Award Program Honors Scholarship, I am able to live and study on an urban campus where the opportunities for networking, research, and exploration are simply not available anywhere else. The restaurants, communities, and cultural venues in the heart of the city are completely different from the suburb I grew up in; I have been exposed to so many wonderful experiences at UIC that are unique to the city of Chicago. Although UIC is a huge research university with over 27,000 students, the Honors College has provided a small college community. The fantastic staff, advisors, and Dean Bette Bottoms commit themselves to the mission of the Honors College and make every effort to provide the resources for Honors College students that are necessary to thrive and succeed.

Acting as a student ambassador in the Honors Ambassador Pro-

gram has been a great opportunity to give back to the Honors College. I had a phenomenal first year experience at UIC. As an Ambassador this year, I pass along the knowledge, advice, and support that aids new students in successfully transitioning to UIC.

My intended major is nursing, and I would like to take my career into the sphere of public health. To explore this interest, I joined Peer Health Exchange, a non-profit organization committed to providing positive health messages to teenagers. There is nothing more rewarding than empowering high school freshman to make their own health decisions.

Another phenomenal opportunity that arose through my connection to Dean Bottoms and the Honors College is the chance to sit on a university committee dedicated to student success. As a student representative, I shared just how significantly this award has benefited my life, and I provided insight into some of the common financial challenges students face.

This is the power of the Honors College. It opens doors, it gets you where you want to go. All you have to do is ask questions, work hard, and take advantage of the plethora of resources available to Honors College Students. I am so privileged to be a part of the first class of PAP-Honors students in the history of UIC, and I will take advantage of this opportunity to become an educated citizen who gives back to society. I am very excited about my success this year, and I am prepared to continue my academic path for the next year and beyond. The support from the Honors College has been essential in my successful transition to college. I know UIC was absolutely the best choice, and I can see how bright my future will be.

Dr. Ralph Keen: Faculty Fellow, Honors Council Member, and Generous Friend of the College

Dr. Ralph Keen came to UIC in 2010 as Professor of History and the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation Chair in Catholic Studies. After hearing Dean Bottoms describe the College at a presentation for new faculty, he became a Faculty Fellow and joined the Honors Council, the College's executive committee, as well as the College Diversity Committee. Dr. Keen gives generously of his time, interviewing scores of prospective Honors students. He also has made an important personal commitment to donate to the Honors College.

Asked to reflect why he has invested so much in the Honors College personally, professionally, and financially, Dr. Keen reflected: "The Honors College is 1500 of the best students in the region, mentored by over 300 faculty who have applied and been selected for the privilege of working with them, engaging in research funded by major grants and published in significant venues. That's a student-faculty ratio lower than one finds at the most selective liberal-arts colleges, and a level of research found only at major universities like ours. The Honors College is a community of dedicated inquirers, animated by the excitement of discovery and energized by programming that guarantees that its graduates will be prepared to make a difference in the world, no matter what profession they've chosen. Visiting a seminar, talking to individual students, stopping by the Forum when they're presenting their capstone projects:



All these will reveal the remarkable collective project that goes on in Burnham Hall."

"Students in the Honors College have chosen UIC, often over institutions able to offer more generous aid. For most, the price of an education is a substantial burden, the bearing of which can impede a student's progress.

"No one who has gotten to know these students can be oblivious to

the sacrifices they and their families make for what they consider the privilege of a UIC education. As an instructor I wish I could tell those families that the chance to work with their students is our privilege.

"Supporting our students is a way in which I, as a faculty member, can acknowledge the vitality that they bring to the UIC community."

The Honors College is very grateful to Dr. Keen for his myriad contributions and his commitment to student success.

Honors Students Win Prestigious National and Campus Awards

Historically, 85-90% of UIC's share of major national scholarships and awards like the Fulbright, Goldwater, Gilman, and others are won by Honors students. With support from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs, which is now administratively a unit within the Honors College, over 120 Honors College students have been awarded nationally competitive scholarships since 2000. Select 2012-13 Honors College recipients include:

- Fulbright Fellowship**—sends students abroad for 10 months to study, conduct research, or teach English.
 - WENJI GUO**, senior in Biological Sciences; awarded a Fulbright Oxford-Clarendon Scholarship for pursuit of a D.Phil. in cancer epidemiology at the University of Oxford
 - SUZANNE OSKOUIE**, senior in Neuroscience, and French and Francophone Studies; awarded to study neural progenitor cell migration and differentiation at the University of Geneva

- Gilman International Scholarship**—for accomplished students who are often underrepresented in study abroad.
 - CORINNE DZIEMAN**, Graphic Design junior; studying in Argentina
 - MIGLENA GARKOVA**, sophomore pre-Nursing; studying in Spain
 - QIN DAN LIN**, junior in Marketing; studying in China
 - NIMEH MAHMOUD**, junior in Nursing; studying in Jordan
 - ALYSON MARTIN**, senior in Political Science; studying in Russia
 - ADRIANA PEREZ**, sophomore in Psychology; studying in Spain
 - MONICA SHARMA**, freshman in Biochemistry; studying in India
 - SHOMA WEBSTER**, sophomore in Psychology; studying in the United Kingdom

- Goldwater Scholarship**—for students committed to research careers in math, science, or engineering.
 - NIKHIL BOMMAKANTI**, junior in Bioengineering; intends to pursue an MD/PhD

- Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship**—to support study in a graduate or professional program
 - SHRIYA GANDHI**, senior in Biological Sciences and Anthropology; pursuit of an MD at UIC

- PUSH Excel Scholarship**—for students with financial need who show commitment to their community
 - CHIZELLE ONOCHIE**, sophomore in Biological Sciences

- 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.
 - ALEXANDER GUEVARA**, senior in Criminology, Law, & Justice; studying Arabic in Oman
 - OSAMAH HASAN**, senior in Biological Sciences; studying Bahasa in Indonesia
 - MICHELLE LEE**, senior in Chemistry; studying Mandarin in China

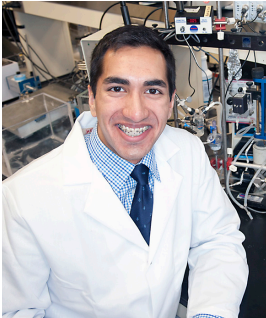
- U.S. State Department Internship**—provides experience working in a U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas
 - HUGH VONDRACEK**, senior in Political Science; interning in Turkey

- Donald and Leah Riddle Prize**—presented annually to the most outstanding senior at UIC based on academic excellence and leadership.
 - WENJI GUO**, senior in Biological Sciences, also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship

- 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.
 - KENNETH THOMAS**, senior in Political Science, for leadership in student government



Wenji Guo



Nikhil Bommakanti



courtesy of Suzanne Oskouie

Suzanne Oskouie

Five Honors students Awarded Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program was established in 1985 at UIC to support African-American, Latino/a, and Native-American UIC students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and good citizenship in fields where they have traditionally been underrepresented. Undergraduate awardees receive \$2,000 scholarships.



photo: Lisa Domkowski

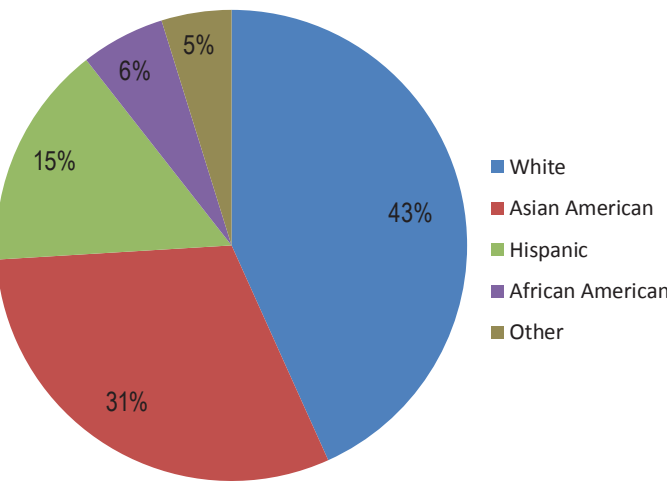
On January 25, 2013, five Honors College students were recognized at the annual luncheon recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship recipients. Left to right: Edleda James, Ken Thomas, Fransely Robles, Precious Marie Walker, and Ashley Pate.

2012-13 Facts and Figures

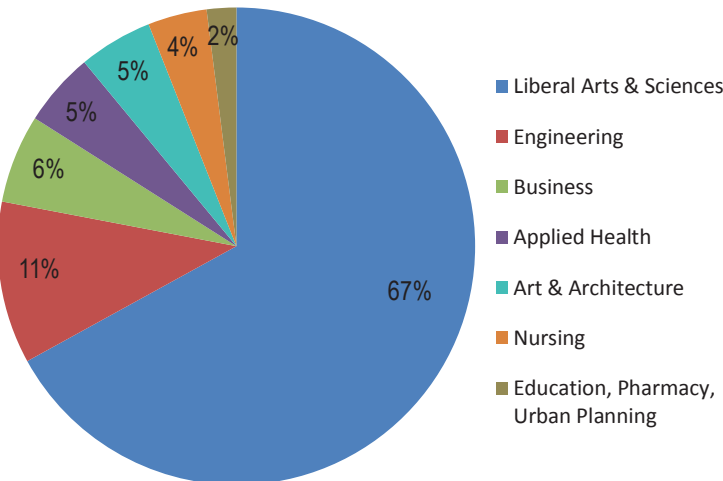
The Numbers:

- **30** Honors Core Courses
- **29** Honors Seminars
- **50** Honors Faculty Instructors
- **330** Honors Faculty Fellows
- **1492** Honors College Students
- **323** Honors College Graduates

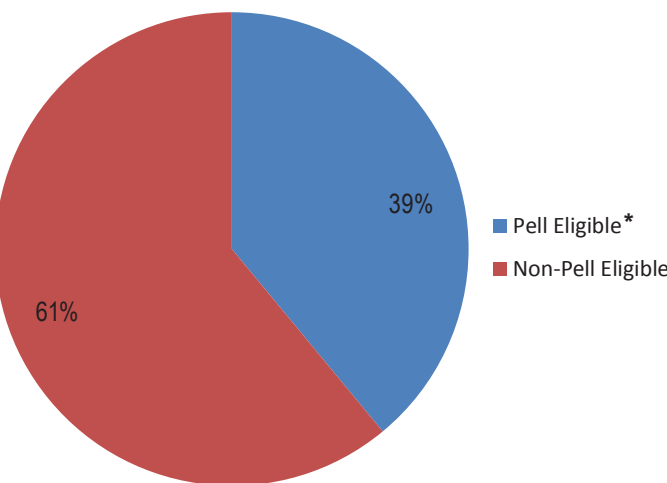
Racial/Ethnic Diversity



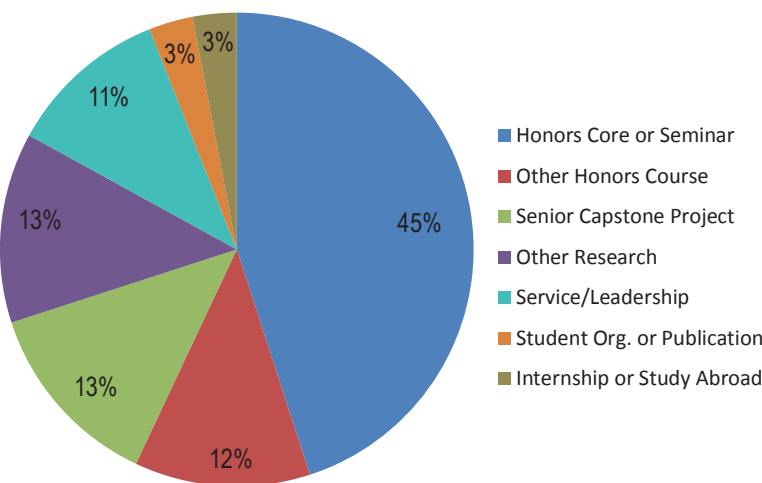
Degree-Granting Colleges



Financial Need



2012-13 Honors Activities



*The U.S. federal government provides Pell grants to students who are determined to have a low or zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the cost of their education. This roughly translates to the equivalent of a family of four with a household income of around \$40,000 or less, for example.

Who's Who in the College

The core strength of the Honors College is its staff, whose members are highly trained, professional, committed, and effective. The College maintains a student-to-advisor ratio of 300:1, the national standard for college advising, and all Honors Academic Advisors and Program Specialists have Master's degrees. They teach Freshman Seminars, advise students from every undergraduate college on campus, manage recruitment and admissions, and develop various Honors programs. In addition, the operations staff has been reorganized and expanded to streamline business processes, including human resources, finances, information technology, student records, and facilities. The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP) is now a budgetary unit under the Honors College, but continues to serve the general student body.



Back (l-r): Aleks Zarnitsyn, Tiana Abrams, Beth Powers, Jerry Jimenez, Tula Georgopoulos. Middle: Sarah Gardiner, Christina Ruiz, Julio Chavarria, Sheena Miller, Stephanie O'Leary, Brian Ward, Vernon Lindsay, Assoc. Dean Stacie Williams, Dean Bette L. Bottoms. Front: Assoc. Dean Sara Hall, Sara Mehta, Assoc. Dean Hui-Ching Chang, P. Tyler Nielsen, Lisa Domkowski, Eliza Ycas.

Successful Post-Doctoral Program Expands

In 2011, the Honors College established a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Teaching and Mentoring. This fellowship provides Honors undergraduates with a faculty-in-residence for teaching and mentoring resources. In turn, it provides aspiring faculty who have recently completed their PhDs at UIC with an exceptional opportunity to gain teaching and advising experience under the mentorship of the Dean and Associate Deans, in preparation for quality teaching-oriented tenure-track jobs. The Postdoctoral Fellow teaches freshman core classes and the Honors Freshman Seminar, advises a cohort of Honors freshmen and senior Honors Capstone thesis students, and directs Chicago Signature Honors Programming. The first Postdoctoral Fellow, who received her doctorate in Germanic Studies from the College of LAS, Dr. Ekaterina Pirozhenko, just obtained a prestigious position as faculty and Assistant Dean at Cornell University. Due to the overwhelming success of the Fellowship, the College has hired two Post-Doctoral Fellows for 2013-14: Dr. Vernon Lindsay from UIC's College of Education, and Dr. Aleksei Zarnitsyn from Philosophy in the College of LAS.



Dr. Vernon Lindsay



Dr. Aleks Zarnitsyn

Innovative Series: The Chicago Signature Honors Programming



Honors College students accompany Post-Doctoral Fellow Ekaterina Pirozhenko (third from left) to the play "Just Another Love Story" as part of the Chicago Signature Honors Programming.

The Chicago Signature Honors Programming is a new extracurricular initiative that connects our students with the cultural and intellectual diversity that only the Chicago urban environment can provide. Led by the Honors Post-Doctoral Fellows in Teaching and Mentoring, the program engages students intellectually, culturally, and artistically, and provides students with mentoring outside the traditional classroom setting. Students have experienced the Lyric Opera, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Goethe Institute, the Hellenic Museum, and the National Museum of Mexican Art, attended local plays and exhibits, and taken neighborhood tours. The students often speak with players, directors, and artists—all at no cost to the students.

Dr. Ekaterina Pirozhenko was the first Post-Doctoral Fellow to lead the program. Associate Dean Sara Hall noted, "Dr. Pirozhenko brought an immense amount of energy and initiative to her role in the Honors College. The ingenuity she applied to seeking out and arranging excursions for Chicago Signature Programming opened up so many new experiences for our students and bridged new and important relationships between the UIC Honors College and a variety of Chicago neighborhoods, cultural centers, and institutions."