More than 5,000 visitors — many of them prospective students and their families — dropped by campus Saturday for UIC Open House, a celebration of all things UIC. Activities included tours of residence halls, sessions on preparing for and applying to college, faculty lectures, a student fair and alumni panel. “The event allowed visitors to put into context all that UIC has to offer,” says vice provost Kevin Browne. See page 6.
Sociologist Bill Bielby is a researcher, retailer, rocker

By Gary Wisby

There are at least four Bill Bielys:
- a nationally prominent researcher on racial and gender diversity in large corporations
- the co-owner of a boutique offering “rustic chic” products in a former train station
- the co-owner of a vintage market located in a large warehouse
- a guitarist in two rock/blues bands.

Bielby, a sociology professor at UIC — he’s also a researcher scholar at the University of Arizona — often testifies in class-action court cases.

The one with the highest profile is against Walmart, claiming that the giant retailer owes billions of dollars to as many as 1.5 million women who say they were unfairly treated on pay and promotions.

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against a nationwide class-action suit, several regional suits were filed.

“Most of my research on race and gender in corporations has been about how workplace policies create barriers and/or facilitate equal employment opportunities,” he said.

Bielby has collaborated with Clayton Rose, a Harvard Business School professor and former senior executive at J.P. Morgan Chase who has “unique insider access.”

“His argument is that companies support African Americans on boards of directors when they are in markets where it’s important to demonstrate commitment to diversity,” he said.

“There is an African American slot on the board.”

One of Bielby’s ongoing studies looks at the experience of black financial advisers in a large brokerage firm.

“The interesting thing there is, how can it be discriminatory when they’re paid on commission?” he said.

“What they do to make advisers more productive is to work on teams. The difficulty African Americans have is being accepted on a team.

“The dilemma they’re facing is that they’re welcomed into the firm and encouraged to get money from African American leaders and celebrities — they’re tracked into racially defined niches.”

The defense of companies in these cases is, “It’s not our fault there is more wealth in the white community,” he said.

Bielby’s non-academic pursuits include co-ownership of Blais Design, a home furnishings and design boutique in Three Oaks, Mich.

He and his wife, Keek — an interior designer and artist who worked as a designer for a handbag company (“Keek” is a nickname for Kathleen) — started the business in 2011.

It’s located in a former men’s clothing store that until 50 years ago was a railroad station.

The business is open from the end of April until Christmas.

In April the Bielys started a spinoff, the Blackbird Crossing Vintage Market, also in Three Oaks.

The warehouse-like venue is open three days a month through October, offering fresh merchandise each time.

“We have about 15 vendors, with vintage items displayed in a cool way, such as boats suspended from the ceiling,” he said.

“It’s been remarkably successful — like a three-day carnival.”

Every once in a while, Bielby will be working at one of his two businesses when he runs into someone from academia who asks, “Aren’t you Bill Bielby?”

“I had never done anything retail in my whole life,” he said. “I never thought I’d be a member of the Chamber of Commerce.”

When Bielby was in eighth grade, he and some classmates in his south suburban school formed a rock/blues band called the Newports. He played both rhythm guitar and bass guitar.

Bielby was in good company — he was the only one who didn’t become a professional musician. “Our drummer once played with Van Morrison,” he said.

On occasion the Newports get back together — their 40th high school reunion, for example.

With another group of classmates, sociology grad students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he started a band called Thin Vitae.

Though its members are now spread around the country, they reunite for such events as the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting.

The band’s name is ironic.

“Until you have tenure, you have thin vitae [vite being short for curriculum vitae]. It’s the sign of a failed career,” Bielby noted.

“None of us have thin vitae.”

Bielby earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering, with high honors, at Urbana-Champaign.

But it being the ’60s, “I wanted to do something socially relevant, and the social sciences were becoming more quantitative,” he said.

So he took a master’s in economics, again at Urbana-Champaign, and a Ph.D. in sociology at UW-Madison.

Bielby and his wife live in Union Pier, Mich., a couple of miles from their businesses in Three Oaks.

He has four stepchildren and 14 grandchildren.

“With spouses, there are 24 of us,” Bielby said. “They stayed with us for a week. We had a talent show. And big meals — you can’t take 24 people out for dinner.”

“Online reviews will never completely be honest. But now the people writing them—and the companies selling them—will have to be more cautious.”

Bing Liu, professor of computer science, on a New York crackdown on fake online reviews, Sept. 25

Businessweek.com

“Living in Harlem, he saw that whenever blacks got into trouble, it was invariably the communists who were willing to defend them.”

John D’Emilio, professor of history and gender and women’s studies, on civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was included in a list of top American communists, Sept. 26

Washington Post WonkBlog

“I am interested in shared authority, community curating — opening up the question of expertise ... Community curating asks how you can also bring in the neighborhoods, which tend to tell different stories.”

Lisa Junkin, interim director of Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, on definitions of curating in the arts, Oct. 6

Chicago Tribune
UIC employees get tax break on benefits for same-sex spouses

By Christy Levy

UIC employees who married a same-sex partner in states where their marriage is legally recognized can now add their spouse to university-provided insurance benefits.

Effective Sept. 16, a ruling by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service says that same-sex couples who married in jurisdictions where their marriages are legal are considered "married" for federal tax purposes.

The ruling applies in states, such as Illinois, that do not recognize same-sex marriages. It does not apply to same-sex couples in civil union partnerships.

For same-sex couples who are legally married, the changes will save money, said Katie Ross, senior director of university human resources administration.

Before the ruling, same-sex couples who added their domestic partner or civil union partner to their benefits paid income tax on the portion of the benefit plan paid by the university, Ross said.

"This was an extra cost that opposite-sex married couples did not have to pay," Ross said.

Employees who married their same-sex partner before Sept. 16 must change their benefits by Nov. 14 by submitting a marriage certificate and completing the required form at http://1.usa.gov/19qhPco

Employees who were married on or after Sept. 16 must submit enrollment paperwork within 60 days of the marriage.

The ruling is considered a qualifying change, which means employees can add a spouse or stepchildren and opt in or out of a Central Management Services health plan.

Coverage is effective on the date the employee submits the request.

Because Illinois does not legally recognize same-sex marriages, it can pose a challenge for same-sex couples, Ross said.

"From a practical perspective, it can make navigating personal issues more complicated for same-sex couples — insurance benefits is just one such issue," Ross said. "However, the recent revenue ruling clarifies that for federal tax purposes, the marriage from one state will be recognized regardless of the state where the couple lives."

Jurisdictions where same-sex marriages are recognized as legal include: Rhode Island, Minnesota, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Washington, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Vermont, Iowa, Massachusetts and California.

Same-sex marriages are also recognized in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Uruguay and New Zealand.

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Granderson visits stadium site

Curtis Granderson — UIC alumnus, former Flames baseball standout and current New York Yankees centerfielder — talks with Flames baseball coach Mike Dee on the site of Granderson’s namesake project, a new UIC baseball stadium. Granderson donated funds for the sports facility, which will be home for the UIC team and a youth initiative in partnership with Major League Baseball, Chicago Public Schools and area organizations. Granderson was on campus this week to film a video promoting his Grand Kids Youth Academy at UIC. “UIC is my second home and I love getting a chance to be here as often as I can,” he said.

Finding ways to fight back against cyber threats

By Christy Levy

Have you ever received a Facebook message from someone you didn’t know, asking you to click on a link? Or an email from a friend that didn’t sound like her?

Chances are, you received a cyber threat.

The Academic Computing and Communications Center is educating the campus community of these dangers throughout October for National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

"Sometimes you get links sent to you and you click on them, and they will do things to your computer without you knowing that it’s happening," said Edward Zawacki, ACCC chief information security and privacy officer.

"If you connect the dots, there’s a lot of information out there that could be used as leverage to get into accounts that you might not want people to get into."

ACCC will host interactive information booths around campus throughout the month:

- Friday, Daley Library concourse
- Oct. 16, Student Center West lobby
- Oct. 21, Student Center East concourse
- Oct. 31, Daley Library concourse

Participants can put their passwords to the test with a password strength indicator and spin a prize wheel to answer a question about cyber security. Answer correctly and you’ll be entered in a drawing for tickets to the Art Institute of Chicago.

Students and employees will receive mass-mails each week with information on cyber threats such as personal data security, phishing, email hoaxes and password safety.

"We want to bring awareness to some of the more pervasive issues that affect security on campus," Zawacki said.

"A lot of times, people do things without thinking about them and put their private information online. We want people to think about the issues and prevent problems."

One of the biggest cyber security threats that students face is copyright infringement.

Universities that receive federal funding are required to take measures to limit copyright infringement, Zawacki said. ACCC receives cease-and-desist notices when students pirate music or movies, for example, and must ensure that students stop the illegal activity.

"If they do it a second time, they cannot use UIC wireless anymore and we file a case with Student Affairs," he said.

Students stop the illegal activity.

Email users should not give their passwords to people they don’t know, but they also should be careful about revealing them to people they know well, he advised.

"The problem with sharing passwords with significant others is that later they might not be significant others and bad things could happen," he said.

For more information, visit security.uic.edu

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Program helps vets become entrepreneurs

Jeffron Boynés

The College of Business Administration will offer a free entrepreneurship program for veterans next fall.

The nondegree certificate program, called Veterans2Ventures, will begin with a pilot program spring semester.

“While there are many resources available to returning veterans, there is no university-based entrepreneurship program serving Chicago today that combines the academic foundation, immersive campus and community experience, and the sustained engagement and mentoring that we can offer at UIC,” said Michael Mikhail, dean of the College of Business Administration.

Veterans2Ventures offers an opportunity “to learn from the best, get experienced advice while launching their business, and participate in a supportive student and alumni community,” said Maija Renko, associate professor of entrepreneurship and the program’s faculty adviser.

Working with the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the UIC business faculty “saw firsthand the need for a more comprehensive program for the veterans who bring entrepreneurial passion, leadership skills honed in the military, and an appetite to accomplish something significant in their community,” said Denise Ching, director of Illinois Small Business Development at UIC, the community outreach arm of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Rodrigo Garcia, assistant director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and a UIC business graduate, said the UIC program complements initiatives at the state agency.

Mikhail said Veterans2Ventures will be a valuable addition to the educational and support services already offered by UIC and the UIC Office of Student Veterans Affairs.

“We look forward to working with veterans and associations as well as Chicago business and civic leaders to make this program a real asset for veterans and the communities to which they return,” he said.

For more information, visit business.uic.edu/v2v

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Workshops unpack students’ sense of identity

By Britney Musial

What really makes us who we are? Students can consider what makes them unique at upcoming Identity Backpack Workshops sponsored by UIC Campus Programs.

Participants can fill in words describing their identity on a form with printed image of a backpack, then post the photo on Instagram (#identitybackpack).

The activity is a great way to see how alike or different students are and how they coexist on campus, said Carrie Grogan, associate director of Campus Programs.

“Our goal is that the Identity Backpack workshops will help students learn about themselves and how they fit into the world around them,” Grogan said.

Information tables will be set up 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday in the Pier Room in Student Center East. The first 200 students to visit the tables will receive a free backpack.

The workshops, which include a dialogue about diversity, take place from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 and 17 in the White Oak Room, Student Center East. Meals will be provided.

For more information, visit uicidentitybackpack.tumblr.com/
UIC scientists celebrate Nobel Prize for Higgs boson discovery

By Christy Levy

UIC physicists joined others around the world Tuesday in celebrating the announcement of the Nobel Prize awarded to Peter Higgs and Francois Englert for their work in discovering the Higgs boson.

“It is an exciting time for those of us in high energy physics,” said Cecilia Gerber, professor and associate head of physics.

“It has been a fascinating journey and it has not come to an end.”

UIC faculty members — including Mark Adams, Richard Cavanaugh, Nikos Varelas and Gerber — played a role in finding the elusive Higgs boson, which generates mass for fundamental particles.

“They are planning to join researchers from around the world Oct. 23 in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the Nobel Prize award.

“In one sense it’s a Nobel Prize to the theorists and in another sense it’s a Nobel Prize to the experiments and the field for having verified this really amazing prediction,” said Cavanaugh, associate professor of physics.

Higgs and Englert began searching for the subatomic particle in the 1960s. In 2012, they presented proof of the Higgs’ existence at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

“It was one of the biggest discoveries of all time,” said Varelas, professor of physics. “It opens a new chapter in the genetic code of the universe. It’s a monumental milestone for physics.

“If the Higgs did not exist, life as we know it would not be possible.”

More than 2,000 scientists across the country are working on research related to the Higgs boson, which is essential to the workings of the universe. Without the Higgs, scientists say, everything would be like free-floating particles of light that could not combine to create matter.

“We’ve finally discovered this was the origin of mass,” Cavanaugh said.

“That’s such a fundamental concept that sometimes we take it for granted. These great, deep mysteries of nature, we are finally beginning to understand.”

The discovery of the Higgs boson was made with help from scientists around the world, including researchers from UIC’s particle and nuclear physics group, which worked on the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment. The group analyzed LHC proton collisions for signs of fleeting Higgs particles within a mass range measured by electron volts.

“We are part of this effort, very much so,” Varelas said.

Town hall outlines vision for structure, governance of UI Health

By Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez

Saying “the status quo is not sustainable from an operational, clinical or financial perspective,” a health care management consultant outlined options for the future of UI Health at a town hall meeting last week.

Andrew Ziskind, managing director of Huron Consulting Group, spoke to a crowd of more than 200 faculty and staff Oct. 1 in Student Center West.

Several months ago, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees hired Huron Consulting to present possible models for structure and governance in keeping with UI Health’s education, research and clinical care missions.

Although no decision has been made, University President Bob Easter told the town hall audience some plans “seem less likely than others.”

“The health enterprise was managed within the UIC campus until two years ago, when the position of vice president for health affairs position was created, reporting to the university president.

With the recent departure of Joe G.N. “Skip” Garcia, former vice president for health affairs, the university has an opportunity to examine the current structure and determine if it meets the needs of the university and the communities it serves across the state, Easter said.

“What we have tried to do throughout this entire process is to create an opportunity for those who are stakeholders, those who have a vested interest in the success of the overall enterprise, to offer their perspectives,” Easter said.

UI Health faces external pressures from health care reform, a highly competitive Chicago market, decreasing reimbursement and a focus on delivering higher quality care at a lower cost, Ziskind said.

“Across the country we’re finding that academic health centers are falling behind their community counterparts in organizing and responding to changes in the health care environment,” he said.

The last thing you can afford right now is to have a lot of dysfunction internally,” said Ziskind, who listed UI Health’s adverse payer mix, aging clinical facilities and organizational transitions among its challenges.

“Although things have improved dramatically, the financial and clinical performance still needs to step up a notch,” he said. Ziskind presented four organizational and governance models.

The plan in the forefront so far would eliminate the vice president for health affairs role and restore a vice chancellor for health affairs reporting to the chancellor. This person would become health provost for the health sciences colleges, with academic and clinical alignment.

“There seems to be some consensus emerging” for this proposal, said Avijit Ghosh, special adviser to the president.

Other proposals:

• maintain the current organizational structure — a vice president for health affairs who oversees the hospital and clinical delivery system and reports directly to the president.

• a vice president for health affairs with centralized oversight of the health enterprise, essentially creating a “virtual” west campus. Health sciences colleges and the clinical enterprise would report to the vice president for health affairs.

• make the dean of the College of Medicine leader of an integrated health enterprise, either as a vice president or vice chancellor for health affairs.

The fourth option was discounted early in the process, Ziskind said.

“We’re concerned that scope would be too broad. And it creates some intrinsic alignment conflict between the other health science colleges and the College of Medicine,” he said.

Although the campus has had a vice chancellor for health affairs before, the latest proposal is different, Ghosh said.

“In the past, the scope of the vice chancellor for health affairs was only over the hospital. With the current proposal, the vice chancellor would have responsibility for both clinical and academic components of the health sciences. The deans of the health sciences colleges would report to this person.

Although this position is the same in title, the conception is very different,” Ghosh said.

Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares began the discussion portion of the town hall.

“The health sciences enterprise and its clinical activities ought to report to the campus,” she said.

“I’ve experienced the VPHA-model up close and personal. Reporting up to the president, you lose a lot of the synergy and integration between the health sciences and the rest of the campus, meaning the east side,” Jerry Bauman, interim vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Pharmacy, said he has discussed the proposal with health sciences deans.

“The consensus among the deans is that we agree with Chancellor Allen-Meares, that this should be placed back under the UIC umbrella,” Bauman said.

smcginnis@uic.edu
By Brian Flood

A threatening weather forecast did not deter more than 5,000 prospective students, parents, and guests from attending UIC Open House Saturday.

Before taking guided tours of UIC facilities and dorms or attending a lecture or presentation, visitors explored the UIC Expo where colleges, programs and support services offered one-on-one sessions.

“There was great involvement from across the campus community, which allowed us to deliver robust programming and make the open house a success.”

Among the open house’s highly attended sessions was a panel discussion, sponsored by Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions, featuring UIC alumni health care professionals, and a guide to liberal arts and sciences with student trustee Danielle Leibowitz and faculty.

College preparation presentations, showcases from the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, a student activities fair in Student Center East, and a display of student-produced engineering projects were among the activities.

The open house was a great opportunity for Chicago to visit UIC, said Kevin Browne, vice provost for academic and enrollment services.

“There was great involvement from across the campus community, which allowed us to deliver robust programming and make the open house a success.”

Edson Moreno, of Chicago Bulls College Prep, registers for the Open House at the UIC Forum.

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Running for research

By Matt O’Connor

Christine Haddad will lace up her shoes and try to channel her excitement Sunday as she runs in her fourth Chicago Marathon.

She’s running not just for herself, but for people who have Type 1 diabetes.

Haddad is part of Cellmates on the Run, a team of marathon runners organized by Jose Oberholzer, chief of transplantation surgery. They have raised nearly $200,000 for the Chicago Diabetes Project and hope to reach $300,000 before the New York City Marathon Nov. 3.

The project funds research to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

“Running for a charity makes it more meaningful,” said Haddad, a doctoral student in microbiology and immunology.

“You’re not just running for yourself, but a cause, and you think about that during the race — that helps you finish.”

Four years ago she wasn’t even sure a marathon was in the picture.

“I started running because I was doing research at UIC,” she said. “I wasn’t really sure if I could do it, but it was a really great experience and it felt really good.”

Haddad won’t be alone Sunday — 45,000 registered participants will run through 26 Chicago neighborhoods on the 26.2-mile course.

The Bank of America-sponsored race will begin in Grant Park and work its way around the city, passing in front of Student Center East and along Taylor Street.

Kim Czech will run in her first marathon since 2010. She ran and trained on her own then, but now has an added incentive running for Cellmates on the Run.

“The big thing this year is I’m supporting my university and supporting diabetes research,” said Czech, assistant professor in pediatric nephrology. “It’s a fantastic thing that the university is a part of.”

Czech’s last marathon was somewhat of a challenge — she trained and ran with a sprained ankle. This year she hopes to improve on her time with the help of an incredibly positive atmosphere.

“It’s a great course, it’s a lot of fun, people cheer you all the way long — I have friends and family cheering me along,” she said.

“Flat or not, the 26.2-mile journey through the city is a challenge even for those who have completed the marathon before.

Ananya Gangopadhyaya will compete in her third marathon this weekend. The experience certainly helps, but her last run was in 2006.

“I feel like I know a little more of what to expect, but at the same time, seven years does make a difference,” said Gangopadhyaya, assistant professor of internal medicine, who is running with Cellmates on the Run.

“It’s such an adrenaline rush, it makes you realize all this training was for this one day. Everyone has worked so hard to get there — you can just feel that emotion.”

Spectators can cheer on the runners at two UIC stations: from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. at Mile 14 near Whitney Young High School and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mile 17 in front of Student Center East.

The UIC pep band, cheer and dance, men’s basketball and women’s softball teams will be in attendance to support the UIC runners.

All volunteers will receive a T-shirt and refreshments; the student group that brings out the most members will win a pizza party from the Chicago Diabetes Project. To volunteer, email chicagodiabetesproject@gmail.com

moconn31@uic.edu

Christine Haddad runs her fourth marathon Sunday.
Chicago bootlegger makes escape

Oct. 9, 1942: Chicago bootlegger Roger “The Terrible” Touhy climbs the guard’s tower at Stateville Prison and makes his escape. Touhy was serving a 99-year sentence for kidnapping after being framed by his bootlegging competitors and corrupt city officials. He was captured a couple of months later. He appealed his case and was released in 1969. He was shot and killed three years later.

“Eurydice”

Oct. 9-13

UIC Theatre production directed by theatre professor Luigi Salerni. Sarah Ruhl tells her version of the Greek myth of doomed lovers from the woman’s point of view. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 10-12; 2 p.m. Oct. 9. 13. Tickets, $11 for students; $14 for faculty/staff; $16 for public

“Illinois Politics and the Public University”

Panelists include U of I President Bob Easter; Christopher Mooney, director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs; and Dick Simpson, professor of political science. Moderator is Mitchell Vogel, trustee of the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois. UIC United’s fall forum. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Michele Thompson Rooms, SCW. RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/uiccampus

“Reform of Cook County Government”

Toni Preckwinkle, president of the Cook County Board. Part of the “Future of Chicago” lecture series. Noon. 230 SES. 312-413-3780

“Working for the World”

Benefit for the Center for Global Health. Cocktail reception, silent auction global trivia and door prizes. Tickets, $100, 7-10 p.m. Maya Del Sol, 144 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park. https://workingfortheworld.eventbrite.com

“Code of the Freaks”

Film screening and discussion of a collaborative film project that examines Hollywood images of disability, produced by artists and scholars in the Chicago area. Sponsored by the Disability Resource Center and Disability Culture Advisory Committee. 5-6:30 p.m. 302 SCE
New fitness machine a ‘jungle gym for adults’

By Britney Musial

How many days a week do you work out? Do you spend at least an hour during each session working on your core, endurance or strength?

New equipment on campus can help students spend that hour working out efficiently and have fun while they’re at it.

The Sport and Fitness Center on the west side of campus recently unveiled its latest equipment, the Synrgy 360 circuit training machine.

“It’s like a jungle gym for adults,” said Lynne Thompson, associate director of programs and services in Campus Recreation.

“Anyone can start out on this and work their way up. It’s cutting edge and extremely fun and energetic.”

The structure itself is massive.

As many as 10 people can use it at the same time, which makes it the perfect opportunity to grab some friends to work out with and makes it easier for teams to train together.

“The Synrgy 360 caught my eye,” said Samreen Vora, a clinical/attending instructor in emergency medicine, who attended the open house.

“I’ve always meant to get a push to begin working out and I think this is a great place to start.”

The machine changes up the usual workout process, said Amy Jandek, coordinator of the Human Performance Lab in Campus Recreation.

“It brings a new flair to any workout and it’s a perfect way to keep being on the move, “ Jandek said. “You can find a new thing to do every day for at least one whole year. It’s very interactive.”

Jessica Canlas, associate director of communications in the College of Pharmacy, was impressed with the equipment.

“There’s definitely a multitude of options and versatility,” she said.

“I’ve never done anything entirely like this.”

The Sport and Fitness Center also has two newly renovated private rooms for massage therapy.

“We’ve got some plans to keep adding to this area,” said Mark Glazier, associate director of the center. “We’re going to get some bikes down here, some mats. We’ve got a lot to work with.”

The open house Sept. 25 was an opportunity for students and employees to check out the new equipment and updated space, said Brian Cousins, director of Campus Recreation.

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The open house Sept. 25 was an opportunity for students and employees to check out the new equipment and updated space, said Brian Cousins, director of Campus Recreation.

“We are confident the students and other Campus Recreation members will enjoy and appreciate the new addition to our facilities, programs and services,” he said.

Registered UIC students who pay student fees have access to all Campus Recreation facilities. Memberships for faculty and staff are $27.50 per month.

For more information, visit recreation.uic.edu

Taking advantage of opportunities

Holly Brenza, a junior in English, is the newest campus blogger, sharing her experiences each week about what it’s like to be a UIC student. Read a new update every weekday from our “I Am UIC” bloggers at http://iam.uic.edu

By Holly Brenza

It’s 3 a.m. I’m sprawled out on the floor of my room, surrounded by my work, pretzels and Nutella.

I can’t remember the last time I’ve slept for more than a three-hour interval and I’m seriously considering buying toothpicks to prop my eyelids up.

Despite the insanity, this is my college life, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

My name is Holly. I am a junior majoring in English and minoring in communication and management. I am also a resident assistant and the assistant director for recognition for the National Residence Hall Honorary, an organization that takes pride in being the top 1 percent of leaders in campus housing.

It has been amazing to be able to call UIC my home away from home for the past two years, and I continue to take advantage of all of the opportunities this school gives me.

I absolutely love sports, reading, chocolate and all things girly.

One of my absolute favorite things to do is exploring this incredible city where we are lucky enough to go to school. When I’m not busy with homework or my leadership positions, I enjoy heading out and sightseeing.

I love campus housing and UIC as a whole and am thrilled to have the opportunity to share my UIC experience with you.
Improving patient care in Nepal

By Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez

UIC and the Binaytara Foundation have partnered to develop Nepal’s first blood and marrow transplant unit and organize the country’s first international conference on blood cancers.

Stem cell transplantation, a standard procedure for the treatment of many blood cancers in developed countries, is not yet offered in Nepal. The country also lacks medical specialty training in hematology or oncology.

In an effort to promote evidence-based medicine in South Asia, a conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sept. 13 and 14 with more than 250 participants from Nepal, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and China.

UI Health and the UIC Center for Global Health are hosting four clinicians from Kathmandu Civil Service Hospital. While visiting Chicago, the Nepalese physicians will observe all aspects of blood and marrow transplantation, including clinical care, blood banking, stem cell collection and administrative operations.

"Many cancer patients in Nepal are in need of stem cell transplants, but they currently do not have this option," said Damiano Rondelli, chief of hematology-oncology and director of blood and marrow transplant at UI Hospital.

“Our efforts and presence in Nepal are aimed at developing a partnership to address the need for training medical specialists that will translate into better care for a larger number of people in a wonderful and still developing country.”

The Binaytara Foundation and UIC will assist physicians from the Kathmandu hospital in opening the first blood and marrow transplant unit in Nepal, which will serve thousands of patients from Nepal and neighboring India.

The unit is expected to begin performing autologous stem cell transplants in the next year, followed by allogeneic transplants from compatible donors.

UIC physicians will support the Nepalese physicians through training, guidelines, telemedicine support and occasional visits to the hospital in Kathmandu, said Rondelli.

The foundation and UIC also partnered to provide a year-long blood cancer telemedicine course to 100 clinicians in developing countries.

The Binaytara Foundation was founded by Binay Shah, a former hematology/oncology fellow at UIC who now practices in Idaho.

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WGN news writer helps viewers make sense of the world

By Micki Leventhal

“Living in a city like Chicago with the high murder rates, crimes and scandals — plus everything going on in the rest of the world — you have to do a morning show like ours,” says WGN news writer Anne Marie Saviano about the WGN Morning News, the top-rated broadcast show known for peppering the hard news with quips, pranks and practical jokes.

“People need something to smile about: in addition to reporting the news, our job is to let them know it’s ultimately okay. You can’t deal with this stuff day after day and not have a sense of humor.”

Saviano should know. A 1997 UIC grad in English, she has been a member of the “WGN family” since 1996, when she landed the morning news show’s first writing internship.

Saviano said she “took it seriously and worked my butt off” for the next year, “running, filing, working the assignment desk, getting coffee,” as well as gaining on-the-job, fast-track experience in both “feature and funny writing.”

She was hired as a writer shortly before graduation and over the years has contributed to the morning and midday news, starting out as a traffic producer and moving to writer and segment producer.

During a stint as entertainment producer she interviewed Matt Damon, Robert De Niro, Johnny Depp and other celebrities.

She was on duty Sept. 11, 2001, and the day of the Newtown school shootings.

“It is a powerful and humbling experience. Our viewers are at home trying to make sense of the world and we are here gathering information and getting it out and also trying to make sense of it all,” Saviano said.

“In the old days folks would be smoking and drinking in the studio. We keep ourselves sane with humor.”

Saviano won an Emmy Award for the recurring comedy segment “Get Over Yourself.”

“We would take a celebrity that had made the news and just rip them apart. Paul Konrad sat at a ‘commentary desk’ and took on whatever stupid thing they had done. People got mad at Paul, but I was the one behind the scenes writing the really mean things. Filled with confidence from the Emmy win, the 20-something Saviano cold-called the Annoyance Theatre.

“They turned me down, but were kind enough to actually read and critique my work. That’s when I decided to enter the Second City writing program.”

She completed the Second City writing and directing programs, then assistant-directed shows on the Second City Mainstage and e.t.c. stage and lived for a year in Las Vegas producing Second City Las Vegas.

She teaches classes for the Second City Training Center, including “Writing Strong Women,” a course she developed to create strong female characters who are funny and “not just the silly wife who sits there and bats her eyelashes.”

“It is such an important way to look at comedy: the idea that you can wear a dress and still be hilarious,” said Saviano.

Saviano is constantly creating. In addition to her intense 25-30 hours per week at WGN, where she now writes for the Midday News, she has a string of independent projects.

She is working on a couple of scripts “on spec” and wrote the epilogue to the recently re-released book, Killer Clown: The John Wayne Gacy Murders. She co-created the long-running satire “Oprah! A Comedy!” at the Annoyance Theatre.

“My freshman year at UIC I was a theater major. I wanted to be an actor,” she said.

“But after thinking about it, I realized that I love writing. I love the power of writing. I love creating my own material. And I’m a much better writer than actor, so it is weird that I have ended up doing some acting on WGN. Around Oscar time we do these ‘Angry Newswriter Theater’ bits when we satirically re-enact nominated films. It is purposely poorly produced and that is part of its charm.”

“Honestly, of all the stations in Chicago, nothing is as great as this place. It is so Chicago,” said the native Southwest Sider of WGN.

“The idea that I work for a TV station, that I have ended up doing some acting on WGN, that I work for a TV station that I grew up watching, that my parents and grandparents watch, is super cool.”

“I hated living in Vegas because it wasn’t Chicago and I came home.”

I love that I am a city girl and that I’ve had completely Chicago jobs and went to school in Chicago where I had this great training and wonderful network that led me to this job. I love writing the local news because I know what I am talking about. I still live on the South Side near Archer and Austin with the cops, firemen and school-teachers.”

“And I landed in this awesome life while I was still a student. I have been here forever, and I’m not yet 40. I treasure that fact every day.”

“To learn more about offering or applying for internships through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, contact Robin Hursey, rhursey@las.uic.edu.”

— Reprinted from AtLAS, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

UIC graduate Anne Marie Saviano has worked for WGN-TV since landing the Morning News writing internship in 1996.

Photos: Matthew Kaplan
Women’s tennis nets wins at Wildcat Invitational

By Laura White

The women’s tennis team closed out competition Sunday at Northwestern’s Wildcat Invitational, hosted by Northwestern, producing three singles wins and going 1-1 in doubles.

“There were a lot of positives from the weekend,” head coach Shannon Tully said.

“We played some aggressive doubles and are taking big strides there. We are working hard to execute in our singles matches and got some good wins over strong players from some of the top teams in the country.”

Jana Knappe was 1-2 against her opponents in singles matches. She fell in her first match against DePaul before dropping a 6-3, 6-1 decision to Illinois. In the consolation bracket, Knappe came away with a 1-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over NC State.

Kathryn Sharples led off her singles matches with a 6-5 (4), 6-5 (1) win over Kentucky and advanced to take down Wisconsin, 6-5 (3), 6-3, in another straight-set win.

Sharples and Knappe competed in doubles. They earned a first-round bye, then fell to Princeton, 6-1, before coming back in an extra match to take a 6-4 win over NC State.

The Flames head to Rockford this week to compete in the ITA Second Chance Regional Friday through Sunday.

Soccer shuts out league competition

By Laura White

The soccer team won its sixth shutout of the season Saturday, defeating Cleveland State, 1-0, in its first Horizon League match of the season.

Senior Bob Novak scored the lone goal of the game in the 19th minute.

The Flames improve to 7-3-0 on the season, with a 1-0-0 record in the Horizon League.

“It was great to get that result,” head coach Sean Phillips said. “Our non-conference was a good opportunity for our guys to develop and some of those developments in players, individually and collectively, showed.

“For our group to come up a little short on Tuesday against Michigan State and come back and get the result in 80 degree heat, with 80 percent humidity, on a heavy field against a championship-level team is tremendous.”

The physicality of the game was evident, but UIC created chances early on with attempts by sophomore Kyle Lindberg and freshman Joel Leon.

After a yellow card, Novak came back to score less than a minute off a setup by junior Jesus Torres. Novak took the next shot for UIC but came up short, just missing the net and hitting the post.

The Flames fired off three more shots in the second half by redshirt sophomore Marcin Modzelewski, freshman Rodrigo Salgado and Torres.

The Flames held a 7-5 shot advantage and went 3-3 with a combined 33 fouls.

“Cleveland State is very good possession-wise and they threw a lot of numbers forward in the second half by changing some players around and putting players in different spots, and our guys responded and did very well,” Phillips said.

Freshman goalkeeper Andrew Putna made three saves in the game. Putna recorded the shutout for his sixth of the season.

“Our goalkeeper had to make one good save, our back line covered for us once or twice and really absorbed pressure well,” Phillips said.

“We were much better on set pieces, all things that you’re going to need to have over the course of the seven conference games, and our couple of non-conference games, to get to where we want to be at the end of the year.”

The Flames head to Detroit Saturday for a 2 p.m. match.

Cheer on Flames at free scrimmage

Jeffron Boynés

UIC fans get their first look at Flames basketball this season when the men’s team holds its annual Red & Blue preseason scrimmage Friday.

The game starts at 7 p.m. in the Flames Athletic Center. Admission is free.

The team will scrimmage for two 20-minute halves. There will be audience contests, remarks from Coach Howard Moore and an autograph session with players.

Last year, the Flames advanced to the postseason for the first time since 2004, defeating cross-town rival Chicago State in the first-round of the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT).

It marked the Flames’ first-ever post-season victory.

This year’s team, which includes eight newcomers, features senior forward Hayden Humes (10.3 ppg), junior guard/forward Marc Brown (5.7 ppg) and former Purdue standout Kelsey Barlow, who sat out the 2012-13 campaign per NCAA transfer rules.

The team opens the 2013-14 season with an exhibition home game at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 2 against the University of Chicago at the UIC Pavilion.

For more information on Flames basketball, visit www.uicflames.com.