NAPTIME!
Students rally against sleep deprivation
more on pg 5

BUSY STUDENT
TAYLOR CASINO WINS
STATEWIDE HONOR

NEBRASKA LAW DEAN
NAMED PROVOST

WHAT SHOULD NEW
QUAD LOOK LIKE?

STUDENTS' STORIES
MAKE MEANINGFUL
COMMENCEMENT

NEXT PRINT ISSUE
JAN 13!

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For the community of the University of Illinois at Chicago

— Photos: R. Glass
Taylor Casino is a Lincoln Academy Student Laureate, one of 48 outstanding seniors from colleges around the state. A look at her many activities gives you an idea why.

To begin with, Casino, who will be honored with other laureates May 7, is president of Student Alumni Ambassadors.

“One of the biggest things on campus that we do is Spirit Week, where we take over the second floor of Student Center East and invite student organizations to paint the windows,” she said.

Her group sponsors Hustle Up UH, a charity fundraiser in which participants race — “a lot of people choose to walk it,” she concedes — up the 28 flights of UIC’s tallest building, University Hall.

“We’re kind of a professional development organization,” said Casino, a marketing major in the College of Business Administration. “It gives us the opportunity to hone our professional skills with people of diverse backgrounds.”

Casino was named a UIC Business Scholar, a selective four-year leadership development and training program, and she received a Chicago Future Leader award and a Business Merit scholarship.

She is a mentor for the Ignite Program, which develops student leadership. She’s been a Student Orientation leader, helping new students enter university life. As a member of its senior staff, she organized its leadership retreat. She’s also learning Japanese.

Casino studied ballet for 12 years and belongs to two campus dance groups, EVO and Primo Dance Troupe.

EVO is affiliated with Asian American Students in Alliance and, as a blue-eyed blonde, “I really stick out on stage,” she said.

After she graduates next spring, Casino has a Plan A and a Plan B.

For the first, she has applied to teach English in Taiwan for a year. “Having studied business for four years, I want to reach out and give back and help others, while there’s still time,” she said. “I’ve talked to professors and professionals about how hard it is to find time later on.”

Plan B is to engage in content marketing. “I call it a fusion of digital marketing and journalism,” she said.

“Companies need more than products to bring attention to themselves. The idea is to write stories and take pictures and videos to bring consumers back to look at all the cool things we do besides make shoes, or other things you can do while you’re drinking Red Bull.”

“Consumers go to the company’s website and see what the products are. It creates a buzz about the business.”

“Casino” is not her family’s original name. Her great-grandfather, named Cusumano, applied for a bank loan, and the banker suggested adopting a simpler name.

“So I was told,” she said. “That’s the folklore.”

She is from Champaign. Why didn’t she go to school there?

“In the cornfields?” she replied. “I’ve really always loved the city. There are a lot more resources here. This is a really diverse campus, and I like trying new things and meeting people with diverse backgrounds.”

“To go to a university with a lot of people like myself doesn’t really inspire. I like a good challenge.”

“It seems that the police have a lot of training in how to contain protesters, but very little training on something that would be quite common, which is to de-escalate a situation where someone is intoxicated, mentally ill, or otherwise behaving irrationally.”

Barbara Ransby, professor of African American studies, gender and women’s studies and history, on the shooting of Laquan McDonald by a Chicago police officer, Nov. 25 Democracy Now

“He hasn’t convinced much of Chicago to believe he is really empathetic. You can’t expect him to change his personality entirely, but somehow providing some sense the mayor is on the side of the citizens and the black community would be helpful in this case to lessen the violence.”

Dick Simpson, professor of political science, on public perception of Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s attempts to address police misconduct, Nov. 25 Washington Post

“For people watching the news, and reading about the threats to Washington and New York that followed the Paris attacks, this all may have revived their anxiety.”

Judith Richman, professor of epidemiology in psychiatry, on the impact of reports of terrorism on mental health, Nov. 24 Discovery News
PROVOST SELECTED
Nebraska law school dean named chief academic, operating officer

By Sherri McGinnis González — smcginn@uic.edu

Susan Poser, dean and professor of law at the University of Nebraska College of Law, was named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, effective Feb. 1.

Her appointment is pending approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Poser will be UIC’s chief academic and chief operating officer and senior adviser to Chancellor Michael Amiridis on academic policy, strategic direction, enrollment management and resource planning.

“Dr. Poser’s experience at a Carnegie 1 research institution and her understanding and passion for both student and faculty priorities will help us move UIC forward as a premier public urban research university,” Amiridis said.

A scholar in legal ethics and tort law, Poser joined the Nebraska faculty in 1999. She has been dean and Richard and Catherine Schmoker professor of law at Nebraska since 2010.

She is director of the Robert J. Kutak Center for the Teaching & Study of Applied Ethics, a multidisciplinary resource for campus research and teaching about ethics and ethical decision-making.

She was chief of staff and associate to the chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln from 2007 to 2010, working on a wide variety of campus issues and policies, including academics, enrollment management, alumni relations and fundraising.

“I am excited to be joining the UIC community. The leadership of Chancellor Amiridis, the quality of the faculty and the mission of UIC as an urban, public, land-grant research university are inspiring,” Poser said.

“I look forward to working with the UIC community to serve the wonderful diversity of students at UIC, the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois.”

Poser received her bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College with honors in ancient Greek and political science. She earned a Ph.D. in jurisprudence and social policy and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

After law school, she clerked for Chief Judge Dolores K. Slover in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit and practiced law in Philadelphia before moving to Nebraska to begin her academic career.

Poser is a member of the board of directors of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Strategic Air & Space Museum in Omaha. She is active in national organizations for law schools and law deans and a past member of the ACLU National Board of Directors and elected member of the American Law Institute.

She succeeds longtime UIC administrator Eric Gislerson, who was appointed interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost in August 2014.

Gislerson, professor emeritus of chemistry, has served UIC since 1969 in positions including head of chemistry, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, vice chancellor for research and interim chancellor.

“I want to thank Rick for his steadfast dedication to the university,” Amiridis said. “Rick is one of UIC’s strongest advocates, and he is admired by many people on our campus.”

“I AM EXCITED TO BE JOINING THE UIC COMMUNITY.”

President, chancellor discuss the future at town hall

By Gary Wisby — gwisby@uic.edu

President Timothy Killeen and Chancellor Michael Amiridis spoke to a UIC audience Monday about the future of the University of Illinois.

“Both Tim and I are relatively new in our jobs,” Amiridis said at a strategic town hall in Student Center East, one of a series held on each of the three university campuses.

“It’s important that we set up the priorities and set directions in which we move.”

Killeen said most strategic plans “collect dust on bookshelves — we don’t want that.” The university’s plan should, rather, “be compelling, read quickly and represent who we are and what we want to be.”

Although Illinois has yet to pass a budget for fiscal year 2016, “I believe the budget will support state education,” Killeen said. “It will take two or three months, so we have to be a little stoic.”

Returning to the university’s goals, Killeen said, “We must model excellence in education, research, service, civic engagement and economic development, with a resolutely student-centered approach.”

Amiridis said, “We’ve been talking about growing our enrollment, opening the doors a bit wider.”

Also wider is the geographical scope of the university’s research output, he said. “One-third of articles in science and technology are authored internationally.”

John Braunstein, a director of New York-based AKA/Strategy Consultants, which works with educational and other nonprofits, explained the goals of the university’s strategic plan.

The plan will describe what the university wants to do in the next five or 10 years, he said. Work began over the summer and the goal is completion by the end of the academic year.

“There has been enormous information gathering,” Braunstein said, describing the process as “somewhere between a vacuum cleaner and a sponge. There have been dozens and dozens of interviews.”

The product will include “widespread engagement and actionable steps forward, a 30,000-foot view of the institution,” he said.

Faculty members and students mentioned different concerns, including the need for more collaboration with students and faculty on other campuses.

Dick Simpson, professor of political science, said the strategic plan should take notice of the fact that “the Chicago metro region has more population and greater wealth than most nations of the world.”

“Civic engagement has to be central to any plan,” Simpson said.
Field Museum, Apple execs to speak at commencement

By Jeffron Boynés — jboynes@uic.edu

Field Museum president and CEO Richard Lariviere and Apple vice president of technology Kevin Lynch will be the speakers at UIC’s first mid-year commencement Dec. 11.

Two ceremonies at the UIC Pavilion will honor students who graduate after summer and fall semesters.

Lariviere will speak at the Graduate College commencement, which begins at 2 p.m. Lynch will speak at the undergraduate commencement, beginning at 7:30 p.m., for students in the colleges of Applied Health Sciences, Architecture, Design, and the Arts, Business Administration, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Education and Engineering.

About 1,200 undergraduates and 850 graduate students will receive degrees.

Lariviere has led the Field Museum since 2012. He was dean of liberal arts at the University of Texas at Austin, provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas and president of the University of Oregon. Companies he has worked with include Deluge Corp., General Instrument Corp. (now part of Motorola) and Cisco Systems.

Lariviere’s career in academia and business is grounded in his expertise on India. An expert on the Indian legal system and an award-winning author of books and articles on Indian law and culture, he is fluent in French, Hindi and Sanskrit.

Lynch is vice president of technology at Apple, focused on the software of the Apple Watch and the company’s health software. Before he joined Apple in 2013, he was chief technology officer at Adobe. He joined Macromedia in 1996 and led its move to web publishing, including the creation of Dreamweaver. Adobe acquired Macromedia in 2005.

In 1984, Lynch helped establish one of the first Mac software startups and later helped pioneer handheld personal communicators. He studied interactive computer graphics at UIC, working with artists and engineers in the Electronic Visualization Laboratory in the College of Engineering.

Exhibit highlights people of African descent in public health campaigns

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

An exhibition that explores how people of African descent have been represented in public health campaigns is displayed in the African American Cultural Center through Dec. 18.

The exhibition, “A Choreography of Contagion: Absence and Presence of Black Bodies in Public Health Campaigns,” is presented by the center in collaboration with the School of Public Health’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“A Choreography of Contagion” features a collage of early 20th century newspaper prints and images from private institutions, health journals and popular media. Connecting the past with the present, the exhibition includes examples of modern health campaigns for global epidemics from cholera to Ebola and HIV/AIDS to malaria.

The installation uses visual arts and dance concepts and epidemiological terms to highlight how metaphors, images and symbols convey complex meanings.

The exhibit includes reproductions of rare photographs from the Provident Hospital archival collection at Chicago State University, images from the Tuskegee syphilis experiments and examples of contemporary social media outreach.

“A Choreography of Contagion” is curated by Mario LaMothe, postdoctoral associate at Duke University, and designed by Sarah Sommers Design. The exhibit was commissioned by Lori Barcliff Baptista, director of the center and faculty member in museum and exhibition studies, with the support of Ebbin Dotson, assistant dean of urban health and diversity programs and assistant professor of community health sciences.

Admission is free and open to the public in 200 Addams Hall. Hours are Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Group and guided tours can be scheduled Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–noon.

For more information, call 312-996-9549.

Field Museum, Apple execs to speak at commencement

By Jeffron Boynés — jboynes@uic.edu

Field Museum president and CEO Richard Lariviere (left) and Apple vice president of technology Kevin Lynch will speak at commencement Dec. 11.
Nappers won’t rest until there’s a place to sleep

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Not flash mobs, but nap mobs, sprung up (or laid down) around UIC last week to support a petition for a permanent campus napping center and educate students about the negative effects of sleep deprivation.

The activities were a class project for “Introduction to Socially Engaged Art,” which requires students to design, create and display public art that engages others and pushes for positive social change.

“We were asked to work on something that we really cared about, and sleep deprivation was the most apparent problem in our classroom,” said Danny Kulaski, one of four students who organized the napping event.

They set up a napping room in the Commuter Student Resource Center for five hours Nov. 24 to create a space for safe napping on campus.

“There were couches, dim lights, soothing music and relaxing screensavers on nearby monitors. “We thought the Commuter Center was the best place, because commuters are the most affected,” said Kulaski, a senior majoring in English.

The organizers passed out fact sheets about the negative effects of sleep deprivation on overall well-being.

“It really sinks into every aspect of your personal health,” Kulaski said.

“Any amount of rest, even five or 10 minutes, can give you more energy than to just try and push through,” added Faeem Rollins, a junior majoring in art.

Over 100 students, tired of being tired, participated in the project by taking naps at the center.

“I definitely don’t get enough sleep,” said Evelyn Trejo, a sophomore in kinesiology who napped for half an hour.

Trejo said she tries to ignore how sleepy she gets during the day.

“This nap was refreshing,” she said.

Flash nap mobs appeared throughout the day in public spaces around Student Center East.

“We wanted to point out that students aren’t getting the sleep that they’re supposed to,” Kulaski said.

Their petition to establish a campus napping center next semester is online at go.uic.edu/napcenter

Students stage a nap flash mob in support of a campus napping center and awareness of the negative effects of sleep deprivation. — Photo: R. Glass
Catherine Cortez has one semester left at UIC, but she isn’t sure how she’ll pay for it.

Cortez relies on a grant from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission’s Monetary Award Program to help pay for college costs, but funding for the state grant program is uncertain as the budget impasse continues.

“If I didn’t have the MAP grant, I wouldn’t be able to buy books or anything I need for school,” said Cortez, a senior in biology and psychology. “It gives me an opportunity to go school and takes a great load off students’ shoulders. Otherwise you have students working two or three jobs to go to school.”

Cortez is among 8,000 UIC students who receive grants through the MAP program. UIC paid the students’ MAP grants for fall semester and billed the $16.7 million total to the state, hoping the amount will be reimbursed once a budget is approved, said Shirley Rodriguez-Vega, interim director of financial aid.

Campus administrators haven’t determined whether the university will be able to pay for spring semester MAP grants, she said.

Campus administrators sent an email to MAP grant recipients last month, encouraging students to continue their studies at UIC.

“You should enroll for spring semester classes as our legislative leaders work to resolve the state budget issues,” wrote Eric Gislason, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, and Barbara Henley, vice chancellor for student affairs. “We will continue to advocate for adequate higher education funding, including MAP funding.”

“If no guarantee can be made, we anticipate MAP grant-eligible students will eventually receive grant funding from the state. We hope this will be the case, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely,” the message said.

Reshunda Bates receives about $2,000 per semester in MAP funding. Her brother, Emmanuel, is a freshman at UIC who also relies on the grant.

“It’s a big deal,” said Bates, a junior in criminal justice. “If I don’t have the grant, my option would be to ask my parents to take out a loan, which I don’t want to do, and they would have to take out a loan for my brother, too.”

Bates, who works in the financial aid office, said she would likely look for a second job if funding isn’t approved.

“I really don’t know what the issue with the budget is, but we’re suffering because they can’t figure it out,” she said.

More than 500 students wrote letters to state legislators advocating for MAP funding during a two-day letter-writing campaign last month, organized by Undergraduate Student Government and the Alumni Association.

“Many UIC students received MAP grants to support their college education,” said Sun Choi, a junior in chemistry and director of the USG University Relations Committee. “Cutting financial resources can give them and their family financial stress. In extreme cases, some students won’t be able to continue their college education because getting higher education costs an extensive amount of money without financial supports from the state.”

Choi also receives MAP funding to help pay for college.

“If the MAP grant is not approved for the following semesters, I may not be able to focus on academic aspects, as well as my undergraduate research experience, because now I have to start being worried about the financial aspect of college,” she said.

Incoming freshmen and transfer students are being encouraged to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Jan. 1 to be considered for a MAP grant for next academic year, even though funding is uncertain, said Rodriguez-Vega.

“Students should just keep applying, and applying ASAP, because the MAP deadline moves up a bit every year — this past year it was in February,” she said.

For more information, call the financial aid office at 312-996-3126 or visit financialaid.uic.edu.
Students weighs in on improvements for campus quad: green or structured?

By Christy Levy — christyb@uic.edu

UIC students are helping to plan the quad of the future, where those who follow them can gather to hang out, study and host events.

More than 750 students shared their opinions in a survey about the existing quad as part of the 2010 Master Plan review, a 50-year blueprint for the future, said David Taeyaerts, campus architect.

The review will highlight projects that could be completed in the next decade.

“We are looking at a focused, 10-year vision of what might be realistic in that time frame,” said Fernando Howell, director of facility and space planning, who co-chairs a master plan advisory committee with Taeyaerts.

“The big driver is looking at the capacity of our facilities and what kind of growth we might expect in the next 10 years.”

The survey focused solely on the quad, one of the immediate-impact projects identified in the 2010 Master Plan. Ninety percent of students who responded to the survey said the quad could be improved.

“The campus quad primarily belongs to the students,” said Jonathan Fair, assistant director of the campus architect office. “It’s the central activity space. Students want something to unify the campus and instill a sense of pride and school spirit.”

Students were asked whether they prefer a landscaped quad, with more open space and trees, or a hardscaped space, more structured with tables and benches. Sixty-five percent said they preferred an open, landscaped area.

The survey included images of both scenarios to illustrate the concepts, Fair said.

“It was nice to hear the demand for more green space,” he said. “The university is an urban campus, which ties itself more to hardscape. This could potentially soften it up a little bit.”

Students answered an open-ended question about what they envisioned for the quad.

“There was a lot of mentions of greenery, seating areas, Wi-Fi, outlets,” said Shelby Egan, program coordinator in facility and space planning, “Students want more of a useful space than just an open concrete slab.”

The first major project completed for the 2010 Master Plan was Chicago Circle Memorial Grove at Taylor and Morgan streets, finished in 2013.

Deteriorating asphalt was replaced with a walking path, landscaping was updated, seating was installed and new signs were put in place to mark the gateway to campus.

The Urban Planning and Policy Student Association helped plan the improvements.

“It’s a nice project to instill some pride and place,” Taeyaerts said. “Students then and now have similar themes in what they want for their campus: greenery, choices, activities.”

The advisory committee will use survey data to create a plan for the quad and other improvements, Howell said. Their recommendations will be presented next semester to the provost.

“We’re focusing on affordable, achievable changes that can be realistic, given the current funding constraints,” Howell said.

NPI renovation links past, present, future

By Christy Levy — christyb@uic.edu

An old surgical lighting fixture hangs above a newly updated classroom in the Neuropsychiatric Institute.

Room 765 is a combination of past, present and future.

The 90-year-old building in which it is located was once a psychiatric hospital. The room was an operating theater where surgical procedures were performed on cadavers as a medical audience watched from the balcony, said Nicholas Kane, chief operating officer for the College of Medicine.

Now the area, renovated through the Chancellor’s Classroom Improvement Initiative, is an educational hub for residency programs.

The classroom, which can fit about 50 people, houses the Grand Rounds series where physicians, faculty and medical residents discuss case reviews and training techniques. It will also be used for health sciences seminars, courses and clerkships.

“It has unanimously been positively received,” Kane said. “The design team met this challenge of producing the technology requirements for modern education but simultaneously celebrated the history of the space.”

Designers removed the elevated balcony. The original terrazzo flooring was refinished, walls were painted gray and wooden slats were installed on the walls to tie the room together, said David Taeyaerts, campus architect. Moveable chairs and continuous tabletops with power outlets replaced steep risers.

“The room was really in a poor state — it was clearly two rooms struggling to function as one,” said Taeyaerts, associate vice chancellor for learning environments.

“We wanted to turn it into a contemporary learning space. It feels much more professional and a place where physicians can feel more at home.”

Multimedia enhancements provide videoconferencing with partner institutions around the world, Kane said.

“We can hold meetings for residents on both sides of the hemisphere,” he said.

In a nod to its past, there’s also a display case for surgical artifacts and the original surgical schedules.

The room is a model for future renovations in the College of Medicine, Kane said.

“The marriage of the classic and modern resources is a novel approach for our facilities and a successful approach that we can use to reinvigorate these spaces.”

“Hopefully there will be more to come.”
CALANDER

SPECIAL EVENT
GETTING FUNDED DEC 02
Workshop on keys to successful grant writing, sponsored by the School of Continuing Studies
8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Student Center East
Registration required
go.uic.edu/cnmworkshop

SPECIAL EVENT
DROP-IN FINAL DEC 2-4
EXAM PREP
Tackle time management, test preparation, stress and test anxiety. Sponsored by the Academic Center for Excellence and the Office of First Year Initiatives
Dec. 2 1–4:30 p.m.
Dec. 3 Noon–4:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 1–3 p.m.
111 Stevenson Hall

SPECIAL EVENT
UIC GRADUATE COLLEGE COMENCEMENT DEC 11
Recognizing about 850 graduating graduate students. Commencement speaker is Field Museum president and CEO Richard Lariviere
2:30 p.m.
UIC Pavilion
commencement.uic.edu

SPECIAL EVENT
UIC UNDERGRADUATE COMENCEMENT DEC 11
Ceremony honors about 1,200 summer and fall graduates in the colleges of Applied Health Sciences; Architecture, Design and the Arts; Business Administration; Liberal Arts and Sciences; Urban Planning and Public Affairs; Education; and Engineering.
Kevin Lynch, vice president of technology at Apple Inc., is commencement speaker
7:30 p.m. / UIC Pavilion
commencement.uic.edu

SPECIAL EVENT
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE JAN 18
Spend a day off from class doing good through volunteerism. Choose from a variety of agencies such as A Safe Haven, the Anti-Cruelty Society and Lincoln Park Community Center. Sponsored by Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services
go.uic.edu/mlksignup

EXHIBIT
RITES OF PASSAGE DEC 11
Chicago Cultural Alliance exhibition and related programs that explore family traditions in Chicago’s Chinese-American and Ethiopian-American communities
Mon.–Fri., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
UIC African American Cultural Center, second floor, AH
**Students send comfort to pediatric patients with handmade fleece blankets**

By Melissa Martinez — mmart56@uic.edu

UIC students helped brighten the day of UI Health pediatric oncology patients by presenting them with 145 handmade fleece tie blankets and personalized cards.

Volunteers gave the blankets, which were made by 273 students, to patients Oct. 16.

“It was so great and touching,” said Crystal McIntosh, senior in teaching of English. “Almost as soon as we walked into the hospital, we were giving blankets to patients waiting. They were so happy and just kept saying how thankful they were and how warm and soft the blankets were.”

Students made blankets during the summer orientation sessions, Project LEAD and Make Mondays Matter events. Members of Alpha Phi Omega – Sigma Sigma contributed 59 blankets. All materials were donated by Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services.

“We’re trying to make the hospital stay for them as bearable as possible, so we try to do a lot of projects for them,” said Kinga Mateja, manager of volunteer services at UI Health.

“On behalf of our institution and our patients, I would like to thank all the students for what they did for our patients.”

Mateja wants to give students an opportunity to give back.

“In a small way you can brighten someone else’s day,” she said. “You can put a smile on a patient’s face, which by itself is just priceless.”

More than 270 UIC students helped make 145 fleece blankets and personalized cards for UI Health pediatric oncology patients.

**Indie pop artist Allie X brings showmanship to stage**

By Johnson Luo — zluo20@uic.edu

As part of her national tour, “Doing X,” Allie X performed at Double Door Nov. 19, putting on a fun show.

Allie X’s music is categorized as indie pop, but it has a wide range of possibilities because of its experimental nature.

Showmanship is a big part of her songs. She creates a stage persona of a humanoid doll and makes theatrical dance movements — though sometimes subtle — that help to paint a picture with the lyrics, which are often quite dark.

She swiftly and seamlessly switched between vocal registers to create the feeling of two people interacting during some songs. Sometimes this feeling was captured seemingly by a conversation between Allie X and her guitar.

The conventional elements of her music are worth mentioning. The beats were sophisticated and there was a high level of intricate complexity. The keyboard played a connective role. It filled in the blankness of sound and enforced the wholeness of each piece.

The music itself was already good, but the live performance made it even better. The Double Door is a great venue for small concerts — the audience can get close to the artist and the artist can interact with the audience more easily.

The show was fun and sparked my interest in the indie pop genre.

Allie X brought her fun, experimental music to life at the Double Door. — Photo: Logan White

**#ForeverFlames toast to December graduates**

Diana Chavez, senior in accounting (left) and Vrunda Gandhi, senior in accounting and information and decision sciences, celebrate their upcoming graduation during the #ForeverFlames Grad Toast Nov. 23. Chavez and Gandhi are among UIC’s first group of students who will walk the stage at the Dec. 11 commencement ceremony. For more information, visit commencement.uic.edu
Former UIC faculty member wins Breakthrough Prize in math

By Franciscas Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

When some of the world’s leading scientists walked the red carpet for the third annual Breakthrough Prize Awards Ceremony Nov. 8, UIC mathematicians back in Chicago watched with pride.

Among the winners was Ian Agol, who began his academic career at UIC and visits his former colleagues when he’s in town.

“UIC is definitely a great institution, and it’s contributed a lot to my research and development,” said Agol, professor of mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, currently on sabbatical at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

“It was very clear that he was exceptional from the beginning,” said Marc Culler, UIC professor emeritus of mathematics, statistics and computer science. “It’s remarkable that we were able to have him here.”

Agol was awarded the Breakthrough Prize in mathematics for his research in geometric group theory and low-dimensional topology, the study of a shape’s properties that remain unaffected when the shape is distorted.

“The awards, which include a $3 million prize, were founded by a group of Silicon Valley elite,” Culler noted that there’s no Nobel prize in mathematics; the Fields Medal, awarded to no more than four mathematicians under age 40 every four years, is the closest equivalent.

“He would go on to solve two more: the Virtual Haken and the Virtual Fiber conjectures.”

“It’s certainly great, because in mathematics, what we do is very abstract. I didn’t start out in my career trying to work on very abstract problems, but the deeper you dig, the more abstract it gets. It’s hard to communicate this, so having an award justifies the validity to this work that’s otherwise difficult to communicate to the general public,” said Agol.

“UIC is definitely a great institution,” says Ian Agol, who began his academic career here.

— Photo: Getty Images

POLICE

CRIMES REPORTED TO UIC POLICE

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Type of Crime</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>A man was arrested for theft at 9:30 p.m. at UI Hospital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>8:35 p.m.</td>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>A man was arrested at 8:35 p.m. at the UIC Police Station for a battery that occurred Nov. 12.</td>
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<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>A man was arrested at 9 a.m. at Student Residence and Commons South for a criminal sexual assault that occurred Nov. 20.</td>
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<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>1:47 a.m.</td>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>A man was arrested for DUI at 1:47 a.m. at the UIC Police Station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>3:56 a.m.</td>
<td>Public peace violation</td>
<td>A man was arrested for public peace violation at 3:56 a.m. at 1158 Vernon Park Place.</td>
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UIC student arrested in connection with threat at University of Chicago

A UIC engineering student, arrested Monday on federal charges for threatening armed violence at the University of Chicago, was put under house arrest in his mother’s custody Tuesday by a federal judge.

Chicago resident Jabari R. Dean, 21, faces charges of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce after FBI agents investigated an anonymous threat on a social media website. The threat led the University of Chicago to cancel classes and close the Hyde Park campus Monday.

According to Chicago Tribune reports, federal prosecutors said Dean did not have weapons to carry out the threat.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of five years.

“The awards, which include a $3 million prize, were founded by a group of Silicon Valley elite.”

“UIC is especially strong in geometry and topology,” Agol said. “It’s a great environment for research.”

It was at UIC that Agol solved the Tameness Conjecture, one of the fundamental properties of hyperbolic three manifolds.

“UIC is especially strong in geometry and topology,” Agol said. “It was a great environment for research.”

He would go on to solve two more: the Virtual Haken and the Virtual Fiber conjectures.

“It’s certainly great, because in mathematics, what we do is very abstract. I didn’t start out in my career trying to work on very abstract problems, but the deeper you dig, the more abstract it gets. It’s hard to communicate this, so having an award justifies the validity to this work that’s otherwise difficult to communicate to the general public,” said Agol.

“UIC is definitely a great institution,” says Ian Agol, who began his academic career here.

— Photo: Getty Images

The charges carry a maximum sentence of five years.

“We are monitoring this situation closely and are concerned about the impact this has had on our campus and the University of Chicago,” UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis said in a Monday morning email to campus.

The message noted the arrest and said UIC Police cooperated with other law enforcement agencies after learning of the online threat. Patrols on campus were increased.

According to UIC policies, students facing criminal charges may be subject to the Student Conduct Process outlined in the Student Disciplinary Policy.
Posthumous degree honors student who loved physics

By Sonya Booth — sobooth@uic.edu

It will be a bittersweet moment when Christine O’Brien’s name is called at Graduate College commencement Dec. 11.

Bittersweet, because Christy (as she was known to friends and family) won’t be there. A woman who loved her friends, family, animals, and the mysteries of particle physics, she died July 3, her master’s degree nearly completed despite a four-year battle with thyroid cancer.

“We always thought that Christy was going to beat this and come back, carry on with the physics career she was planning,” says David Hofman, professor and head of his research team.

Hofman said, “We were so passionate about what she was teaching, it was hard not to catch that excitement.”

As a researcher, she was meticulous about documenting procedures and results. She made several trips with other UIC researchers to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, and she’s listed as a co-author on the historic first paper by international collaborators on the Higgs boson.

Originally, she planned a career in theater. She graduated from Cornell College, then worked day jobs while pursuing her dreams as a stage designer and director.

After several years in Seattle and Chicago, she moved back to the suburbs and enrolled at College of DuPage, planning to study engineering like her father, brother and grandfather.

“She took a physics course and the rest is history,” her father says.

“An elegance, a beauty, a wonderment, a precision: that was the aspect of physics she liked. Taking the universe all the way down to the smallest particles. All of that was fascinating to her.”

When she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, “she didn’t think it was such a big deal” because the disease is often treatable. All of that was treatable, her mother says.

But despite surgeries, radiation therapy and participation in a clinical trial at Ohio State University, the cancer persisted. She continued her studies, first full time, then part time, until she couldn’t continue.

When it’s time to walk onstage at commencement, “I don’t know how that’s going to feel,” her father says.

“It will be a celebration of Christy,” Hofman says. “A real recognition of her contributions.

“Everybody who knew her was touched by her.”
High-scoring fourth period pushes Flames to victory

By Eric Phillips — ericp@uic.edu

The women’s basketball team (4-1) returned home to pull off an exciting 66-63 comeback victory over Central Michigan (4-1) Friday at the UIC Pavilion. The Flames used a 23-point fourth period to erase an 11-point deficit.

The Flames return to action at 1 p.m. Saturday at Bradley.

Ruvanna Campbell scored 10 of UIC’s first 17 points as UIC trailed 22-17 after the first period. Campbell finished with 21 points and 15 boards, her fifth straight double-double. In the second period, UIC used a 6-0 run, including a three-pointer by Melita Emanuel-Carr, to tie the game at 31 but went into the intermission trailing 33-31.

In the third period the Flames managed just 12 points, shooting 29 percent (6-21) from the field, and trailed by as many as 11 points. UIC chipped away at the lead with an 8-0 run to begin the fourth period behind Campbell and Kendyl Nunn (18 points).

The Flames scored 10 consecutive baskets to take their first lead of the game at 62-60 with 4:49 remaining. Central Michigan would not go away quietly as Cassie Breen (14 points) connected on a three-pointer to give the Chippewas a 63-62 lead.

With 1:20 remaining, Campbell hit two free throws to put UIC ahead, 64-63. Cate Soane (six points) added two late free throws to seal the win.

“Marissa gave us good valuable minutes off the bench,” Miller said. “She does the job, she’s willing to sacrifice her body and she also needed to change the tempo of the game.”

Emanuel-Carr finished with eight points, nine assists and five rebounds. Marissa Grossfeld added five points and seven rebounds off the bench.

“Marissa gave us good valuable minutes off the bench,” Miller said. “She does the little things, an unsung hero-type. She rebounded, took a couple of charges and was willing to sacrifice her body and she also hit a couple of big threes in the first half. She was steady and played her role well.”

Flames ready to face rival DePaul

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

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Flames ready to face rival DePaul

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

Cheer on the Flames tonight in a crosstown clash against the DePaul Blue Demons at 7 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion. Students are free with i-card and employees can receive discounted tickets using the code “Staff15” on Ticketmaster.com.

Three UIC players scored in double figures for the second consecutive game Saturday, but the Flames could not overcome Drake’s high-powered offensive attack as the Bulldogs posted an 83-62 victory at the Knapp Center.

The teams traded baskets with the second coming when Markese McGuire scored on a pretty feed from Dikembe Dixson. Drake went on a 10-2 run, however, to grab a four-point lead with 15:55 to go in the period.

Drake surged ahead 13-8 before a five-point run featuring a triple from Lance Whitaker. A baseline drive and layup by Naji Hall followed with the second coming when Markese McGuire hit a couple of big threes in the first half.

The Bulldogs shot 52.3 percent from the field, sinking 10 of 19 three-point attempts. UIC was slowed by a season-high 20 turnovers, which led to 21 points for Drake.

UIC scored the game’s first two baskets with the second coming when Jake Wiegand knifed inside and scored on a pretty feed from Dikembe Dixson. Drake went on a 10-2 run, however, to grab a four-point lead with 15:55 to go in the period.

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