Barak Stoltz wasn’t on Mars, but it was the next thing to it — a station in the Utah desert that duplicates the harsh conditions astronauts will face when they get to the Red Planet.

Stoltz, a junior in mechanical engineering and physics, spent two weeks in December at the Mars Desert Research Station.

The station is run by the Mars Society, a nonprofit that calls itself “the world’s largest and most influential space advocacy organization” and “works toward a human presence” on Mars.

“It’s a full-scale approximation of what they would send to Mars,” Stoltz said. “It’s for people who want the experience of being an astronaut on the first [Mars] mission.”

He and his six fellow crew members had to wear spacesuits whenever they went outside. They ate dehydrated food. “Rehydrated, it tastes about the same,” he said. “We had potatoes, vegetables, sausage, chicken, beef, even cheese. Once we even made pizza,” although it made everyone gassy.

Geologically, the Utah desert is much like Mars. Another resemblance: “The isolation,” Stoltz noted.

“I was fancily named the astro-engineer. I worked at the Musk Observatory [Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, donated it], fixing up the telescope, recreating the training program that any future crew astronaut will have to go through.”

Stoltz valued the diversity of his crew, which included members from Australia, India and Italy.

As a Jew born in Israel, he marked Hanukkah by telling the story behind the holiday, lighting a menorah, saying a prayer, singing a song and “attempting to make latke.”

“It was an opportunity for people from different cultures to learn and share,” he said.

Now that he’s gone through the simulation, is he interested in actually going to Mars some day?

“Absolutely,” said Stoltz, who guesses that the first trips will start around 2030-2040. The trip will take about six months.

“I’m definitely willing to put up a fight to get picked,” he said. “Crew members will basically have to be as elite in your field as can be found — engineers, medical, pilots — picked out of thousands.”

Planners are improving the technology to make the trip more affordable and practical, he said. “Mars has a scarce magnetic field that doesn’t cover the whole planet, nothing to protect astronauts from radiation.

“Companies like SpaceX are working to make rockets more affordable. For the first time they launched a cargo into orbit; it spun around, came back down and landed. They can refuel and send it up again, saving millions of dollars.”

The Utah station has hosted 161 crews, with more than 1,000 members, since opening in 2001.

Stoltz’s father, Michael, is director of media and public relations for the Mars Society. A year ago, he mentioned to his son that one of the upcoming crews was short one member. Barak applied and was named to crew No. 159 about a month later.

Born in Israel, he came to this country in 2007 at age 12. His family’s home is in Northbrook; he lives on Taylor Street about 10 minutes from campus.

At UIC he works under Alexander Yarin, professor of mechanical and industrial engineering, and Ph.D. student Sumit Sinha Ray.

“We’re working on production, modification and application of nanofibers,” he said.

Stoltz plans to pursue a master’s degree and perhaps a Ph.D., then work for SpaceX, NASA or a space-oriented company like Lockheed Martin.

His career will involve “anything engineering-, space- or science-related,” he said. “Anything pushing humanity forward.”

Mars is never far from his thoughts.

“A successful manned mission to Mars would be one of the biggest accomplishments in human history, and being a part of it would be an absolute pleasure,” Stoltz said.

“As an enthusiastic believer in the future of space travel, I believe that our mind should wonder at the thought of space exploration, and what better way to do so than in the middle of the Utah desert with a sky full of stars.”

“Other people can be affected, but again, it’s the transmission to baby that we’re concerned about.” — Jessica Shepherd, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology on the mosquito-borne virus Zika virus, found recently in South and Central America, CBS 2.

“[Black squirrels’] superpower is being able to support themselves, where gray squirrels would be otherwise out-competed.” — Joel Brown, professor of biological sciences, on the emergence of black squirrels in Michigan, Jan. 25 USA Today.

“I think everybody was a bit oversold on the promise of cameras being like that silver bullet and reducing crashes.” — Rajiv Shah, adjunct associate professor of communications, on red-light cameras, Jan. 25 Daily Herald.
Units returning to CUPPA Hall after relocation

By Christy Levy — christyb@uic.edu

Several College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs units returned to CUPPA Hall Thursday after being temporarily relocated a year ago for building repairs. UIC faculty, staff and students who have offices in CUPPA Hall moved out of the building in February 2015 after the southeast corner of CUPPA Hall sustained damage during work on the Jane Byrne Interchange reconstruction project. The building, at 412 S. Peoria St., is located along the Eisenhower Expressway where the Illinois Department of Transportation’s $475 million, four-year Byrne Interchange reconstruction is under way.

A window-replacement project was also partially completed in the building while employees and students were in temporary offices.

Faculty and students who had moved to the Student Residence Hall on the west side are returning to the building this week, said Jodi White Jones, assistant dean for communications for the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

“Everybody is anxious to get back to business as usual,” Jones said. “It’s difficult to be out of where your home base is, there’s no doubt about it, but for safety, health and cleanliness purposes, we needed to. But the campus has been very supportive, with colleges offering us space when we need it.”

Three units housed in the southeast corner of the building, which is still under repair, remain in temporary locations. The Survey Research Lab is in the Student Services Building, the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy is on South Campus at 1253 S. Halsted St., and the Center for Public Safety and Justice is in the Rice Building, 815 W. Van Buren St.

During fall semester, CUPPA classes were held in various buildings across the east side of campus. Students returned this semester to classrooms in the adjoining east side of campus. Students returned this semester to classrooms in the adjoining

Grant links chronically homeless patients to housing services

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Under a new $100,000 grant, the UIC department of emergency medicine, in partnership with All Chicago, a nonprofit agency that provides resources and strategies to address homelessness, will develop a process for hospitals and clinics to share data with homeless service providers.

“Chronic homelessness is a huge risk factor for a host of disease and medical conditions, including diabetes, heart disease and cancer, but it’s also the single biggest risk factor for a significantly reduced lifespan,” says Steve Brown, director of preventive emergency medicine in the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System and principal investigator on the grant.

People who face chronic homelessness live, on average, 27 years less than the average American, Brown said, but that information often isn’t reported to the emergency room staff.

“If we don’t know who carries this risk factor when they come into the emergency department, we can’t do our best to provide linkage to services — most importantly, getting these patients into permanent support housing,” he said.

The grant, from AcademyHealth and the federal Office of the National Coordinator, will allow Brown and UI Health’s information services department to work with All Chicago technicians to develop a way to embed a patient’s housing status into the electronic medical record. They will cross-reference patients already in the hospital’s medical records with the database of Chicago’s Homeless Information Management System, which tracks Chicagoans who are currently homeless, at-risk of becoming homeless, or were formerly homeless, and the services they receive. The HMIS database is managed by All Chicago and used by more than 250 agencies and city departments.

Linking homeless patients to services to get them into housing not only improves their health, but also reduces costs for the healthcare system, Brown said.

“Homeless patients are the most expensive to treat because they are at such greater risk for so many health problems and diseases,” he said. “If we can work on their number-one health risk factor — homelessness — we have a much better chance of preventing chronic diseases and reducing overall health care costs.”

UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis hosted an “Office Hours” conversation Monday in Student Center East to give the campus community a chance to share ideas and ask questions. Other campus leaders were also on hand to respond to questions from students and employees.

“Office Hours” events March 1 in the Student Services Building and April 1 in Student Center West.

— Photos: Jenny Fontaine

Campus conversation
CAMPUS NEWS

Enjoy free concerts during lunch break

UIC presents free, lunchtime concerts in its Tuesdays-at-One series this semester.

All concerts take place from 1 to 1:50 p.m. in the Education, Theatre, Music and Social Work Building.

FEB. 16
Rufus Reid and the UIC Jazz Faculty
Grammy-nominated bassist Rufus Reid joins UIC’s faculty of prominent jazz musicians. Recital Hall L285

MARCH 1
UIC Jazz Workshop
Under the direction of faculty member Chris Madsen, the Jazz Workshop performs a set of timeless jazz standards. Recital Hall L285

MARCH 8
Glenn Kotche
The eclectic influences of energetic, versatile percussionist and composer Glenn Kotche are spotlighted in a solo performance. Recital Hall L285

MARCH 15
Zvonimir Tot and Kelly Sill
Guitarist Zvonimir Tot and bassist Kelly Sill present music from their new album, “Standards Live at the Jazz Showcase.” Recital Hall 285

MARCH 29
Circle Ensemble Piano Trio
UIC’s faculty trio performs Schubert’s Trio No. 1 in B flat, Pp.99 and Joaquin Turina’s Trio No. 1 in D Major Op.35, featuring Jennifer Cappelli on violin, Paula Kosower on cello, and Ivana Bukvich on piano. Rehearsal Hall L060

APRIL 12
Student Chamber Music
Music majors perform a selection of chamber music, ranging from violin sonatas and violin–guitar duos to clarinet and saxophone ensembles. Recital Hall L285

APRIL 19
Choro de Lá Pra Cã
Choro de Lá Pra Cã comprises U.S. flutist Julie Koidin and Brazilian musicians Diogo Guanabar (mandolin, cavaquinho and guitar), and Caio Padilha (guitar, rebeca and vocals). Recital Hall 285

APRIL 26
“In C”
Ensemble-in-residence Latitude 49 is joined by UIC faculty and students to perform Terry Riley’s pioneering minimalistic masterpiece In C. Rehearsal Hall L060

EXEMPLARY ADVISING
Nominations can be submitted through Feb. 15 for the 2016 Provost’s Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award.

Established in 2011, the award recognizes those who have demonstrated exemplary skills in academic advising and a commitment to student success. Eligible employees have nonfaculty positions and spend a significant portion of their job advising undergraduates. Three $750 awards are given each year.

Nominations can be submitted online at go.uic.edu/AA2016

TEACHING CONVERSATIONS
The UIC Teaching Learning Center will host several faculty events in spring semester to advance teaching and learning in the classroom.

Upcoming events include:
• “Finding and Exploring Your Teacher Voice,” 5–8 p.m. Feb. 4, 1-470 Daley Library
• “Flipped Instruction and Beyond,” 1–2 p.m. Feb. 8, 1-010 Daley Library

View a complete list of events at tlc.uic.edu/events

GREEN PROJECTS
The first step for student proposals to help make UIC a greener campus are due Feb. 15 to the Sustainability Fee Advisory Board.

The Sustainability Fee, $3 per semester paid by all UIC students, funds small, short-term projects, helps subsidize larger, long-term projects and helps fund student travel to related conferences.

The advisory board includes students, faculty and staff.

All UIC students and student organizations are eligible to apply. For more information, visit go.uic.edu/sustainabilityfee

Recognizing Student Service
Nominations are now being accepted for the Chancellor’s Student Service and Leadership Awards.

The volunteerism and leadership awards include the Chancellor’s Student Service Award, Eugertha Bates Memorial Award and Jane Addams Distinguished Service Award. Students may also be nominated for induction into the Activities Honorary Society. Outstanding undergraduate, graduate and professional students who have given their time and talent to campus or community service can be nominated for the awards.

Nominations can be submitted until 5 p.m. Feb. 12 at go.uic.edu/cssla

Winners will be honored at the 44th Annual Chancellor’s Student Service and Leadership Awards Ceremony April 14.

For information, email slvs@uic.edu

SNOW REMOVAL HOTLINE
Report problems related to snow and ice to the 24/7 snow removal hotline, 5-SNOW (312-355-7669). Provide location, time and a phone number or e-mail.
About 650 UIC students, faculty and staff laughed their hearts out Thursday at a comedy event that got real, raw and relatable really fast.

The third annual LOL@UIC event welcomed opener Barry Brewer and headliner Whitney Cummings, both multitalented stand-up comedians.

“LOL is great,” said Shaheryar Madni, a senior in biology.

“The anticipation was really high,” added Christian-Nathaniel Matthews, a freshman in the College of Business Administration. Madni and Matthews waited outside for three hours before the event started to get front-row seats.

Brewer, a Chicago native, is known for his appearances on Comedy Central’s “Gabriel Iglesias Presents Stand Up Revolution,” BET’s “Comic View” and TVOne’s “The Perfekt Plan,” a film he starred in and executive produced.

“I’m glad to be here,” he said.

Brewer talked about what it’s like to be a black male, joked about flying in coach and shared his experience of living on the South Side.

Whitney Cummings took the stage after, sporting joggers with imprints of red-lipstick kisses and a UIC sweatshirt.

“I know this is like black tie for you guys,” she teased.

She was forced to wear her pajamas after accidentally leaving her luggage at the airport.

But the laid-back attire seemed to fit what students liked the most about Cummings — the "non-filtered version of her comedy," said Fatima David, a senior in biology.

“She’s hilarious,” said Daniel Miranda, a senior in criminal justice.

Cummings was excited for her performance, too.

“Chicago’s my favorite city,” she said. “Actually, the sitcom that I did on NBC for two seasons [“Whitney”] is based in Chicago because I love it.”

She started her career as a comedian in 2004, appearing on the E! show “Chelsea Lately,” the “Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien” and the Comedy Central roasts of Donald Trump, Joan Rivers and David Hasselhoff.

In 2011, her comedy series “Whitney” was picked up by NBC and a sitcom she co-created, “2 Broke Girls,” began airing on CBS.

At her LOL@UIC performance, she covered topics like social media, birth control methods, selfie addictions and relationships.

“I like you guys, I like this vibe,” she said.

But she noted that students should brace themselves for life after graduation.

“I just want to help manage your expectations,” she said.

Cummings left on a good note and shared some words from the wise: clean up your social media and “work hard, but work smart,” she said.

“When you work, really work, and when you don’t work, really don’t work,” she said.

“Even though you can work all the time, that doesn’t mean you should.”

Whitney Cummings headlined the free comedy show for the UIC community. — Photo: Jenny Fontaine

Opener Barry Brewer joked about flying in coach and shared stories of living on Chicago’s South Side. — Photo: Jenny Fontaine
Online directory to document a century of Chicago’s Latino art

By Brian Flood – bflood@uic.edu

One hundred years of Latino art in Chicago will be showcased in a new online archive, funded by a $40,000 grant from the Chicago Community Trust to a national Latino research group based at UIC.

The Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), a national consortium of 25 university-based Latino research centers, will establish a Chicago Latino artist directory dating to the early 1900s that will include image galleries, biographies, artists’ statements and related website links. Users will be able to sort information by artist name, country of origin, gender, decade, art form or theme.

The grant also will support panels and workshops led by Chicago-based artists at Latino Art Now!, the program’s national conference, April 7 – 9.

“Artists, collectors, curators and scholars will benefit from the website as a valuable research and educational tool,” said Maria de los Angeles Torres, executive director of IUPLR. “The related conference programs offer a platform for local artists to share and discuss contemporary issues and influences around Latino art in urban spaces.”

“The production of Chicago artists deserves greater attention in national Latino art narratives, debates and public engagement.”

Collaboration aims to keep artists in Chicago

By Anne Brooks Ranallo – aranallo@uic.edu

Many artists are educated in Chicago, but not so many stay to expand the Chicago art world.

That’s why the School of Art & Art History joined two prestigious institutions — the University of Chicago and the School of the Art Institute — in a collaboration to make Chicago more attractive to creative young people.

“Part of the plan was to engage directly with goals of the Chicago Cultural Plan and to incentivize artists and people in the creative economy to stay in Chicago instead of going to Los Angeles or New York,” said Lisa Yun Lee, director of the School of Art & Art History.

Three grad students and recent alumni from each school were chosen as fellows in the consortium, called “Field Trip / Field Notes / Field Guide.”

UIC’s representatives are Alejandro T. Acierto, who graduated in 2015 with a master’s degree in new media arts; Kera MacKenzie, a 2013 graduate with a master’s in moving image; and Nicoletta Rousseva, a doctoral student in art history. Participants from the University of Chicago study art, anthropology and evolutionary biology. Those from SAIC are alumni in new arts journalism, architecture and visual and critical studies.

The group began meeting in October and meets monthly through June to share research and attend field trips, seminars and lectures that make use of Chicago as a lab and provoke exchanges that might not occur in an academic setting.

Rousseva said the group began with a field trip to Chinatown, where they paired off for a scavenger hunt to get acquainted and begin planning. At their second meeting, a fellow who works with mollusks at the Field Museum led a tour of research projects there. Other trips include the Croatian Embassy, the site of the once-planned Spire building, the Chicago Pedway and a Lake Michigan pumping plant.

The group will present their research in a field guide, highlighting their approaches while in the field.

“Jochen Gerber of The Field Museum shows a glove made of mussel sea silk to fellows of the Field Trip / Field Guide / Field Notes consortium, a collaboration designed to make the city more attractive to young artists.

“The Inter-University Program for Latino Research will create a Chicago Latino artist archive.

By Anne Brooks Ranallo – aranallo@uic.edu

The Inter-University Program for Latino Research will call for submissions for the directory and for Chicago-focused proposals for the conference this month. Conference events sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust grant will be recorded and made available on the directory’s website.

The grant is the group’s second art initiative to receive funding recently. In May, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded the program $20,000 to develop a virtual gallery that will enable users to curate online exhibits of artwork from Chicago Latino artists.

Torres said the program aims to engage artists, museum professionals, students and community organizations in conversations about the creation and dissemination of Latino art in global cities, particularly Chicago.

“The production of Chicago artists deserves greater attention in national Latino art narratives, debates and public engagement,” said Torres, professor of Latin American and Latino studies.

The Latino Art Now! conference, presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Latino Center, will host events at UIC, the Chicago Cultural Center, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance.

“Spring of Latino Art,” a series featuring more than 60 community-based exhibitions and events related to the conference, will run from March through June at venues across the city.

Latino Art Now! conference registration and more information is available online at iuplr.uic.edu
Examining pollution in Great Lakes sediment

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

An Li and Karl Rockne have been working together for more than five years to monitor and measure environmental pollutants in Great Lakes sediment.

Through the Great Lakes Sediment Surveillance Program, Li, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health, and Rockne, professor and interim head of civil and materials engineering in the UIC College of Engineering, have collected more than 1,000 sediment samples.

Rockne analyzes the physical structure of the sediment samples, looking for information that will provide clues of how the sediment deposited and what that means for the timing or speed with which chemical pollutants have accumulated in the lake bottom mud.

Li looks at the chemical composition of the samples to identify what kinds of industrial pollutants are present. These typically fall into one of two categories: legacy chemicals, or those that may persist in the environment even though their production has ceased (the pesticide DDT, for example) and chemicals of emerging concern. These chemicals can be known or unknown.

One reason the surveillance program is so important, Li said, is that “we need to constantly be on the lookout for the presence of new chemicals in the environment that may be hazardous to health.” Li recently discovered a suite of chemicals called polyhalogenated carbazoles in the deep sediments of Lake Michigan. These are similar in structure to dioxins and PCBs, but more research needs to be done to determine where they came from and if they are toxic.

“We keep finding new things — that’s the fun part,” says Li, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences.

UI Health physician helps treat sickle cell disease in Nigeria

By Gary Wisby — gwisby@uic.edu

A UIC physician is helping establish a bone marrow transplant center in Nigeria to treat sickle cell disease.

“The relevance of treating sickle cell disease in Nigeria is huge,” Rondelli said.

It could be one to two years before the center opens, he said.

Rondelli has already helped set up bone marrow transplant units in Bangalore, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal, which treat several blood diseases, not just sickle cell.

At UI Health, physicians have cured 12 adult patients of sickle cell disease using stem cell transplantation from healthy, tissue-matched siblings. The technique eliminates the need for chemotherapy to prepare the patient to receive the transplanted cells.

The transplants were the first performed outside the National Institutes of Health campus in Maryland, where the procedure was developed.

Doctors have known for some time that bone marrow transplantation can cure sickle cell. But few adults received transplants because high-dose chemo was needed to kill off the patients’ own blood-forming cells — and their entire immune system — to prevent rejection of the transplanted cells, leaving them open to infection.

In the new procedure, patients receive immunosuppressive drugs just before the transplant, along with a very low dose of total body irradiation, a treatment much less harsh than chemo.

Sickle cell disease is inherited. It primarily affects Africans and people of African descent, including about one in every 500 African Americans born in the U.S.

The defect causes the oxygen-carrying red blood cells to be shaped like a crescent, or sickle. The misshapen cells deliver less oxygen to the body’s tissues, causing severe pain and, eventually, stroke or organ damage.
CALENDAR

FEB 03 SPECIAL EVENT
PRECISION MEDICINE FOR ALL
Funmi Olopade, professor of medicine and director of Center for Cancer Genetics, University of Chicago. Center for Global Health Monthly Network Meeting honors World Cancer Day. Lunch provided Noon–1:30 p.m. / 6175 CMRB
globalhealth.uic.edu

FEB 03 SPECIAL EVENT
POP-UP PANTRY
Providing free non-perishable food for students in need. Bring i-card
10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. / 613 SCE

FEB 03 SPECIAL EVENT
African-American Cultural Center
OPEN HOUSE
Tour center, meet staff, learn about programming and events Noon–2 p.m. / 207 AH

FEB 04 LECTURE
BEYOND THE HEADLINES: MY SISTER’S STORY
Sharon Cooper discusses the life and legacy of her sister, Sandra Bland, as well as developments in the legal case 5–7 p.m. / Illinois Room, SCE

FEB 04 WORKSHOP
RÉSUMÉ AND COVER LETTER WORKSHOP
Sponsored by the Student Employment Office 3–5 p.m. / Cardinal Room, SCE

FEB 04 SPECIAL EVENT
A CHOREOGRAPHY OF CONTAGION
Opening of exhibit focused on “Absence and Presence of Black Bodies in Public Health Campaigns.” Presented by the African-American Cultural Center in collaboration with the School of Public Health’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion 10–11:30 a.m. / SPHPI 160 uicaacc@uic.edu

FEB 04 SPECIAL EVENT
HOOP IT UP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
Game between UIC faculty/staff, students and alumni. 5–9 p.m. / SRF

FEB 03 SPECIAL EVENT
LET’S TALK: TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES WHILE WE HEAL OUR COMMUNITY
Interactive discussion with UIC Counseling Center about maintaining mental, physical and emotional wellness during a time of racial unrest 4–5:30 p.m. / African-American Cultural Center Library, AH

FEB 09 SPECIAL EVENT
WE BEEN DOIN’ IT: BLACK WOMEN IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT
Panel discussion on the role and impact of women in social justice movements 4:30–6:30 p.m. / 603 SCE

FEB 10 LECTURE
BeyOND THE HEADLINES: MY SISTER’S STORY
Sharon Cooper discusses the life and legacy of her sister, Sandra Bland, as well as developments in the legal case 5–7 p.m. / Illinois Room, SCE

Send information about campus events to Christy Levy, christyb@uic.edu

FOR MORE UIC EVENTS, VISIT EVENTS.UIC.EDU
App helps students find textbooks nearby

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Wish you could scroll through a feed to find affordable textbooks? A UIC student created a mobile application that can do just that: Boon App, which helps students find or sell textbooks to others within a 100-mile radius.

“It makes it easier for students to get the books they need for class, sell the books they don’t need and find cheaper ones,” said Rushi Amin, sophomore in computer science and chief marketing officer and developer of Boon App.

Boon App is modeled after Instagram, the popular photo- and video-sharing app. The app is available to students at UIC and the University of Louisville, where app co-founder Ricky Patel is a student. Another co-founder is Abram Deng, a 2014 Spalding University graduate.

Version 1.0 is accessible on iTunes and is compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch.

The app lets students create a unique user profile to buy or sell textbooks within minutes. Users can upload a photo of their textbook, search for an ISBN number or take a picture of the book’s barcode to automatically generate book details.

Students then share, sell, scroll and save. “Books come up on your actual home feed and you can scroll through them,” Amin said.

Each photo has a short description, detailing the book’s price and condition. Users can also rate buyers and sellers, much like Amazon’s seller feedback option.

Other features include a book search bar, chat options to avoid sharing personal contact information, same-day book delivery and wish lists that notify users when someone within 100 miles is selling a book they want.

Sellers won’t be charged listing or selling fees, Amin said. “It’s all transacted between the person and the buyer,” he said. “There’s no middleman. We’re just creating a database for users.”

The team hopes to reel in more sponsors, making the app available to Android users and eventually build a nationwide e-commerce and exchange platform for college students.

“We have high hopes for this,” Amin said.

For more information on Boon App, email boonappllc@gmail.com or visit the company’s Facebook page (facebook.com/BoonAppLLC)

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Student bands needed for UIC Radio competition

By Pearl Shin — pshin3@uic.edu

UIC Radio is looking for passionate students and their bands for its third annual Battle of the Bands.

Continuing the tradition that started in 2014, UIC Radio hopes this year’s competition will bring together the community for a night of excitement.

“I love Battle of the Bands because it’s so awesome to see all these bands that are a part of UIC come together for a fun night of music,” said Sonia Vavra, blog director for UIC Radio.

UIC Radio is accepting applications through Sunday on the UIC Connect page, go.uic.edu/uicconnection. At least one band member must be a current UIC student. The Battle of the Bands takes place March 16.

Last year’s champion, TanZen, won a prize pack from Best Tronics Pro Audio and the opportunity to perform alongside Spark in the Park headliner twenty one pilots and special guest Wale.

“I’m excited to see who the best of the best is and seeing music bring people together,” Vavra said.

TanZen, winner of last year’s Battle of the Bands, performed at Spark in the Park in the fall.
DEATHS

Melvin Holli
Professor Emeritus, History

Melvin Holli, 82, professor emeritus of history, died Jan. 7 in Carol Stream.

Holli was a leading expert in U.S. urban and ethnic history, with particular interests in American urban politics — notably Detroit and Chicago — and the biographies of big-city mayors.

Holli began at UIC in 1965 as an instructor and founding member in the history department. He advanced to full professor by 1975 and later served as department chair from 1991 to 1994. He retired in 2003.

As a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Holli was influenced by Arthur Schlesinger Jr.’s expert-poll ranking of American presidents and he contemplated a similar work that would evaluate the nation’s big-city mayors.

The concept came to fruition with his notable 1999 book The American Mayor: The Best & The Worst Big-City Leaders, which was based on Holli’s own nationwide poll of urban historians and political scientists that covered more than 700 mayors of the nation’s 15 largest cities, from 1820 to the 1990s.


Dick Simpson, professor of political science and a former Chicago alderman, said Holli’s books and teaching imparted critical understanding to Chicago politics and the role of American mayors.

“He and his colleagues in the history department trained nearly every major Chicago history scholar,” Simpson said. “He helped to make UIC the leading university of Chicago and urban history and politics.”

Richard Fried, professor emeritus of history, recalls Holli as “one of those colleagues who could give valuable advice on others’ research.”

Holli had formal training as an archivist and throughout his career collected manuscripts and historical documents related to the urban and immigration history of Chicago. Many of these documents, including the speeches of Mayor Richard J. Daley and letters of Jane Addams, now form part of the UIC Library’s Special Collections Department.

In a Chicago Tribune obituary, Ronald Legon, former UIC history department chairman and former dean of the graduate college, said Holli “took this mission very seriously and cultivated relationships with a number of key political figures, community activists and ethnic organizations, in order to give them the confidence to turn over their papers to this collection.”

“He built an extraordinary collection, which today is one of the main sources of information about the growth of Chicago and its ethnic communities and political leaders,” Legon added.

He was a two-time Fulbright recipient (1978, 1989). In 1969, Holli was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers.

Over the course of his career, print and broadcast media from around the country interviewed him for perspective and expertise on urban and ethnic history and politics.

Holli, a native of Ishpeming, Michigan, received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Michigan University and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Betsy B. Holli, his son, Steven Holli, and his daughter, Susan Swinford.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Anderson Auditorium in the Wyndemere Retirement Community, 200 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton. Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association (alz.org) or the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame (shiball.com).

POLICE

CRIME UPDATE

SUPEKT ARRESTED IN ARMED ROBBERY

Officers of the UIC Police/Chicago Police Department Joint Robbery Task Force arrested a second suspect Friday in the Dec. 4 armed robbery of a UIC student near the Peoria Street pedestrian bridge.

Tom Michael Kaniweski, 19, of 2413 N. 78th Court, Elmwood Park, was taken into custody at his residence and charged with one count of felony armed robbery. He remains in Cook County Jail in lieu of $200,000 bail.

Kaniweski and another offender allegedly asked to borrow the victim’s mobile phone, placed several calls, then displayed a knife when the victim asked for its return. The victim was not injured in the crime.

Suspects were identified with the help of CTA investigators using video surveillance and the victim’s description. Task force officers arrested a minor in connection with the robbery Dec. 15. He was convicted in juvenile court and awaits sentencing.

“The joint effort between UIC Police and CPD is essential in maintaining the safety and security of UIC and the surrounding communities,” UIC Police Chief Kevin Booker said.

The UIC Police Department is a force of sworn officers with statewide statutory powers of arrest. The department has a long tradition of community-based policing in partnership with the on- and off-campus community.

UIC News Staff

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Richard Fried, professor emeritus of history, recalls Holli as “one of those colleagues who could give valuable advice on others’ research.”

Holli had formal training as an archivist and throughout his career collected manuscripts and historical documents related to the urban and immigration history of Chicago. Many of these documents, including the speeches of Mayor Richard J. Daley and letters of Jane Addams, now form part of the UIC Library’s Special Collections Department.

In a Chicago Tribune obituary, Ronald Legon, former UIC history department chairman and former dean of the graduate college, said Holli “took this mission very seriously and cultivated relationships with a number of key political figures, community activists and ethnic organizations, in order to give them the confidence to turn over their papers to this collection.”

“He built an extraordinary collection, which today is one of the main sources of information about the growth of Chicago and its ethnic communities and political leaders,” Legon added.

He was a two-time Fulbright recipient (1978, 1989). In 1969, Holli was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers.

Over the course of his career, print and broadcast media from around the country interviewed him for perspective and expertise on urban and ethnic history and politics.

Holli, a native of Ishpeming, Michigan, received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Michigan University and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Betsy B. Holli, his son, Steven Holli, and his daughter, Susan Swinford.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Anderson Auditorium in the Wyndemere Retirement Community, 200 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton. Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association (alz.org) or the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame (shiball.com).
AWARDS AND HONORS

Hispanics in Philanthropy named MARIA DE LOS ANGELES TORRES, professor of Latin American and Latino studies, among the recipients of its 2016 HIPGivers Award. The honor recognizes Latino philanthropists, community leaders, educators and artists. Torres, who is also executive director of the UIC-based Inter-University Program for Latino Research, will be recognized March 10 in Sonoma, California, during the organization’s annual leadership summit and gala.

KELLY LE ROUX, associate professor of public administration, received a Best Article Award for a report on nonprofits increasing voter turnout, and an Editor’s Prize for a report on recruiting nonprofit managers, at the annual conference of the Association of Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action.

ROHAN JEREMIAH, assistant professor of community health sciences, in collaboration with Global Girl Inc., received the 2015 MacArthur Foundation International Connections Grant Fund. Jeremiah and Global Girls executive director Marvinetta Woodley-Penn are launching an exchange program for adolescent girls in Chicago and Grenada, West Indies. A goal of the initiative is to facilitate opportunities for girls to collaboratively develop and perform a performance art piece with the use of music, dance and drama that symbolizes the public health realities of womanhood.

A group of MIS graduate students brought home the gold from Kraft Foods’ “Clustering Challenge,” a two-day analytics event held at Kraft headquarters. UIC team members Pravesh Shenoy, Kirthikeyan Venugopal, Chiranjib Ghorai, Sameer Deshpande and Manohar Lakshminathanaih competed against teams from 20 area schools to solve a practical business problem using data analytics and application development. They were awarded $5,000 for their winning clustering solution, which they presented to Kraft executives.

ROSS ARENA, professor and head of physical therapy in the College of Applied Health Sciences, was named a fellow of the European Society of Cardiology.

KANOKWAN (MANDY) BUNSAWAT, doctoral student in kinesiology, has received the American Heart Association’s Predoctoral Fellowship, which will fully fund her research for two years. Her project is “The role of obesity in neurovascular responses to exercise.”

TERESA CÓRDOVA, director of the Great Cities Institute, received the Sor Juana Award for university programs from the National Museum of Mexican Art. The award recognizes women worldwide for outstanding civic, social and artistic contributions.

The Water Museum by LUIS ALBERTO URREA, professor of English and LAS distinguished professor, was named among Kirkus Reviews’ best fiction books of 2015.

VAL PRATER and LOIS HITCHCOCK, clinical assistant professors of health information management, received fellowships from the American Health Information Management Association.

KEN MORGAN, director of the Urban Health Program in the College of Applied Health Sciences, won the 2015 Directors Award (Central Region) from the National Association of Medical Minority Educators. The award honors his service as a regional director and committee participant at the National Association of Medical Minority Educators.

ANGELA ODOMS-YOUNG, associate professor of kinesiology in the College of Applied Health Sciences, received the 2015 Katherine Kafer Christoffel Founder’s Award from the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children.
Flames outlast Vikings in OT

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

UIC junior Najeal Young buried the game-winning jumper from the right wing with two seconds remaining in overtime Saturday to help the Flames beat Cleveland State, 72-70. It was the first Horizon League victory of the season, and the first under first-year head coach Steve McClain.

The Flames host the Valparaiso Crusaders at 3 p.m. Saturday. Students are free with i-card.

The Flames staged a series of significant comebacks Saturday throughout the afternoon. UIC built a slim six-point lead early in the game, 13-7, but after the Vikings got a 3-pointer with 8:44 remaining in the first period, they stayed in control for a long stretch. The lead reached 12 points for the visitors four minutes later, but UIC's defense kept digging in. The Flames held Cleveland State scoreless over the final 4:45 of the half, and a three-pointer and a free throw from Markese McGuire made it an eight-point game at the break.

UIC methodically chipped away after the break and outscored Cleveland State, 10-4, over the first 2:30 of the second half to trim it down to a two-point deficit. Each time the Flames got close, however, the Vikings countered. Twice the second-half lead reached nine points, and it was a seven-point game with 2:12 after CSU's Jibri Blount made it an eight-point game at the break.

Over the final two minutes of regulation, the home team fed off the energetic crowd and turned up the tempo on defense. Three Cleveland State turnovers and two missed free throws down the stretch helped the Flames outscore the Vikings, 7-0, over the final 1:54 to force the extra session.

The Vikings scored the first four points of overtime before UIC’s Lance Whitaker drilled a three-pointer with 3:44 on the clock. Cleveland State had a three-point lead early in the game, 13-7, but after the Vikings got a 3-pointer with 8:44 remaining in the first period, they stayed in control for a long stretch. The lead reached 12 points for the visitors four minutes later, but UIC’s defense kept digging in. The Flames held Cleveland State scoreless over the final 4:45 of the half, and a three-pointer and a free throw from Markese McGuire made it an eight-point game at the break.

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Wiegand got another rebound to set up the game-winning possession. With leading scorer Dikembe Dixson blanketed by the defense, Whitaker found Young for the biggest basket of the season to date, putting the squad ahead, 72-70.

Cleveland State tried to throw the ball the length of the floor, but the beave sailed long, giving UIC the ball back under its own basket.

Young led all players with 15 rebounds, while pouring in a career-high 17 points in 39 minutes. The junior also led the Flames with a career-high three steals and had two assists.

Dixson was another dynamic offensive force as he scored 24 points, including 17 in the second half. Wiegand was a key contributor off the bench with seven points, two rebounds and a bundle of energy for the Flames.

Women’s basketball drops Crusaders

By Eric Phillips — ericp@uic.edu

Redshirt senior Ruvanna Campbell recorded her 13th double-double Saturday at Valparaiso, 54–50. The Flames host Northern Kentucky at 7 p.m. Thursday at the UIC Pavilion. Students are free with i-card.

UIC (11-9, 2-7 Horizon League) led from start to finish Saturday, using a combination of defenses to limit Valparaiso’s shooting from behind the three-point stripe. The Flames jumped out to an early 13-6 lead but the Crusaders used an 8-0 run to take their only lead of the game at 14-13 with 1:59 remaining in the period. Campbell (20 points, 10 rebounds, four steals) set the tempo for the Flames, scoring nine of UIC’s 18 points in the quarter.

Kendyl Nunn (15 points) came off the bench to spark the UIC offense, scoring eight points in the second period to stretch the Flames’ lead to as many as 11 points. The Flames defense took over, forcing Valparaiso into five turnovers and 13 percent shooting from three-point range.

“We controlled the tempo for the majority of the game through our defense,” head coach Regina Miller said. “Switching defenses (from man to traps) threw them off and they were not able to establish an early rhythm. Our plan was to defend the three-point shooters by extending the zone along with some traps.”

Both teams struggled to make baskets in the fourth period, combining for a total of 15 points. Trailing by three, Valparaiso cut the Flames’ lead to 51-50 after Dani Franklin’s three-pointer with 5:44 left in the fourth period. UIC called a time-out and regrouped as Campbell nailed a jumper with 3:26 remaining. Maarissa Grossfeld added a free throw for the 54-50 win.

“We made plays down the stretch when the game got close,” said Miller. “The players are beginning to understand the value of possessions and the team is getting better. When we limit mistakes, good things will happen.”