Cadet earns distinguished military honor

Actress to address immigration reform

Celebrating the Innovator, Inventor of the Year

Cubs fans celebrate World Series win pg. 11

Photo: Vibhu S. Rangavasan

Facebook / uicnews  
Twitter / uicnews  
YouTube / uicmedia  
Flickr / uicnews  
Instagram / thisisuic & uicamiridis
Cadet selected for top ROTC honor

By Tim Goldrick —tgoldr2@uic.edu

After leading his team to a second-place finish in the 30-hour, physically draining Ranger Challenge, UIC cadet Nicolas Scarano was given the next day off to let his body recover. He didn’t take it, though.

Short on sleep and food, Scarano chose to wake up at the crack of dawn to participate in ROTC’s physical training. “He doesn’t take the easy way out,” said Lt. Col Luke Meyers, who has been working with Scarano the past two years in ROTC at UIC. “He is constantly pushing himself, and that’s exactly what we want in future officers.”

It’s this type of commitment that has elevated Scarano to Distinguished Military Graduate, a recognition given to the nation’s top 20 percent of ROTC students based on academics, physical fitness and leadership. Scarano is the first UIC student to receive the honor in three years.

“It’s a pretty big award,” Scarano said. “I’m flattered by it.”

But the cadet’s ROTC journey wouldn’t have happened without a family compromise. After graduating from Metea Valley High School, he wanted to immediately enlist in the Army. His parents, who both have master’s degrees, urged him to go to college and enroll in an ROTC program instead. That’s when UIC came into the picture.

“I chose UIC because I’ve always liked the city and I wanted to go into architecture,” Scarano said. “I thought: ‘What better place to look for architecture than the city of Chicago?’”

That decision has paid off for Scarano. The cadet has achieved academic and ROTC success by striking a balance. “When you want to strive to be better and get the Distinguished Military Graduate, you just have to push more and more,” he said. “It almost becomes like a second major.”

“It’s the waking up at five when you were up studying until two in the morning for a physics exam. The balance is one of the main struggles that some of the cadets have.”

While Scarano’s ROTC superiors are impressed with his peak physical fitness and classroom success, they are equally dazzled by his innate leadership qualities.

“He’s the real deal,” Meyers said. “He’s all about leading and taking care of students and cadets here, and in the future it’ll be soldiers. It’s what our nation wants in future junior leaders.”

Scarano’s leadership techniques are, again, centered on finding that balance. “It’s being able to be approachable while still being respected as a leader,” he said.

“You can’t overstep your boundaries yelling at someone, and you can’t overstep your boundaries being friends with someone.”

The Distinguished Military Graduate honor will be presented to Scarano when he graduates in May.

After graduation, Scarano will serve his four-year active duty commitment.
Rave Guardian enhances safety

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

UIC staff, students and faculty now have a private safety network that fits in their pocket and follows them anywhere on campus.

UIC Rave Guardian is a free, downloadable campus safety application for smartphones that’s fully accessible to anyone with a UIC ID. It’s a companion app to the UIC ALERT system, a separate notification service launched in the spring that is used to reach students and employees quickly during campus emergencies.

Both services are products of Rave Mobile Safety, a leading creator and innovator of data, communication and safety software. UIC Rave Guardian is powered by Smart911, a national database used by safety personnel and emergency responders.

“I think this is a real opportunity for students to be afforded an extra level of security when they’re on campus,” said Michael Landek, executive associate vice chancellor for administrative services. “It’s a unique product in the personal safety industry.”

The application will also add a “major avenue for interactivity,” noted Sandeep Dath, director of technology for administrative services. “We felt we needed to empower our campus community.”

The UIC Rave Guardian app has four core features:

• Connect with Guardians: add trusted friends, family or campus police as contacts for direct communication or group messaging that goes to your app’s inbox. Guardians can track your location, get notifications if you don’t check in on the app and receive alerts.

• Set a safety timer: set a status and timer to alert your guardians if you’re alone, feel unsafe or make a trip to an unfamiliar place. Users can deactivate the timer when they’re safe, but guardians are notified if the timer expires. The app cannot track users or access their phone’s location unless location tracking is manually allowed.

• Make emergency calls and send text tips: call campus police and dial 911 from the app, or send tips — in a text and with photos — to the police if you witness any suspicious activity.

• Create a Smart911 Safety Profile: users include information that they want UIC Police dispatchers and first responders to know in case of an emergency, such as medical conditions, disabilities, allergies or medication being taken.

Those who have a UIC email address will have total access to the service, but parents, friends and other guardians who are not directly affiliated with the university can still download the app, be marked as guardians and receive alerts from the application.

The UIC Rave Guardian app is available on iTunes and Google Play and is compatible with iOS (7.0 or later) and Android devices (4.0.3 and up). Members of the UIC community should sign up with their UIC email ID.

Students, staff and faculty are still strongly encouraged to sign up for UIC ALERT messages to take full advantage of the university’s safety services.

All active UIC emails are automatically enrolled in UIC ALERT, but users can subscribe to receive notifications via SMS and other wireless emails that are not UIC email addresses. To register, visit go.uic.edu/UIC_Alert.

Annual re-enrollment for UIC ALERT is no longer required.

“We can’t emphasize the importance of signing up for this alert system,” Landek said. “It takes a few minutes and it makes an important difference.”
Actress to address immigration reform
By Tim Goldrick — tgoldr2@uic.edu

On the hit Netflix show, "Orange is the New Black," Diane Guerrero plays Maritza Ramos, a tough inmate who is quick with an insult. In reality, though, Guerrero is an outspoken citizen who cares deeply about immigration reform.

It’s this combination of fame and civic engagement that made the 30-year-old actress a perfect choice to headline “An Evening With” Nov. 14 at the UIC Forum.

“There’s the educational factor to it, but, then, she’s also a celebrity,” said event lead Rajas Gupta. “It’s not often that you get to be in the same room as a celebrity.”

The annual event is sponsored by the Student Activities Board and free for UIC students, faculty and staff. Doors open at 6 p.m., with Guerrero scheduled to take the stage at 7 p.m.

“The important thing is that students feel like this is our campus,” Gupta said. “She’s coming for us.”

Guerrero, who also stars as Lina on the CW’s “Jane the Virgin,” will speak about comprehensive immigration reform. In recent years, she has advocated for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Mi Familia Vota, a nonpartisan organization that promotes Latino citizenship and voter registration.

“Sometimes people don’t take celebrities seriously,” Doman said. “For her, she has real-life experience that makes her more than just a celebrity. She’s a real person.”

Guerrero overcame these challenges to become a success story. She illuminates her full, complicated life in her memoir, In the Country We Love: My Family Divided, which was released earlier this year.

The Student Activities Board will give 25 students the chance to meet Guerrero. More information will be posted on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

Great Cities celebrates 21 years
By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

The Great Cities Institute invites the UIC community to a celebratory 21st anniversary special event Nov. 16 that highlights the Great Cities concept and honors some of the Institute’s original founders.

In January 1993, then-UIC Chancellor James J. Stukel convened the Great Cities Advisory Committee to develop and initiate his vision for a Great Cities Initiative at UIC.

Among the committee’s recommendations was the establishment of a flagship interdisciplinary research center. The Great Cities Institute was created in 1995 to help fulfill the vision of UIC as a university committed to active engagement with various constituencies in the Chicago region.

Stukel, who is also a former University of Illinois president, will give his perspective on the historic formation of the Great Cities Institute.

Wim Wiewel, the first director of the institute and first dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, will share his thoughts about why the Great Cities concept remains important today.

The free event will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the East Terrace Room, Student Center East. For more information, visit greatcities.uic.edu

Exhibit highlights military culture
By Tim Goldrick — tgoldr2@uic.edu

The fourth annual “The Things We Carried” exhibit art runs through Friday at the Cisar Student Veterans Center in Student Center East.

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

Guerrero, who also stars as Lina on the CW’s “Jane the Virgin,” will speak about comprehensive immigration reform. In recent years, she has advocated for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and Mi Familia Vota, a nonpartisan organization that promotes Latino citizenship and voter registration.

“Sometimes people don’t take celebrities seriously,” Doman said. “For her, she has real-life experience that makes her more than just a celebrity. She’s a real person.”

Guerrero overcame these challenges to become a success story. She illuminates her full, complicated life in her memoir, In the Country We Love: My Family Divided, which was released earlier this year.

The Student Activities Board will give 25 students the chance to meet Guerrero. More information will be posted on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

Great Cities celebrates 21 years
By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

The Great Cities Institute invites the UIC community to a celebratory 21st anniversary special event Nov. 16 that highlights the Great Cities concept and honors some of the Institute’s original founders.

In January 1993, then-UIC Chancellor James J. Stukel convened the Great Cities Advisory Committee to develop and initiate his vision for a Great Cities Initiative at UIC.

Among the committee’s recommendations was the establishment of a flagship interdisciplinary research center. The Great Cities Institute was created in 1995 to help fulfill the vision of UIC as a university committed to active engagement with various constituencies in the Chicago region.

Stukel, who is also a former University of Illinois president, will give his perspective on the historic formation of the Great Cities Institute.

Wim Wiewel, the first director of the institute and first dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, will share his thoughts about why the Great Cities concept remains important today.

The free event will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the East Terrace Room, Student Center East. For more information, visit greatcities.uic.edu

Exhibit highlights military culture
By Tim Goldrick — tgoldr2@uic.edu

The fourth annual “The Things We Carried” exhibit art runs through Friday at the Cisar Student Veterans Center in Student Center East.

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”

The exhibit, which is inspired by Tim O’Brien’s acclaimed novel, The Things We Carried, features photos, artwork and objects from student veterans’ time in the military.

“It’s our way to give the student body insight on military culture,” said Billy Triphahn, president of UIC’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of students at UIC maybe don’t know much about military culture. They might know what they’ve heard from a cousin, a friend or what they’ve seen on TV, but in reality it’s completely different.”

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT EVERYBODY’S CULTURE ON CAMPUS, AND WE’RE NO DIFFERENT.”
#LIVEUIC

- A UIC freshman who lives on campus their first year is almost twice as likely to graduate in four years than a student who doesn’t live on campus.
- Academic support and classes are right outside your door. And not to mention we have study groups built right into the halls – knock on a door and learn something new!
- National research backs us up – students who live on campus are more satisfied with their college experience, earn a higher GPA and are more likely to graduate (according to the American Council on Education).

- Reduce your commute time. Don’t waste it in traffic or on the train.
- Neighborhood rents are expensive. We conveniently bill your account along with tuition and financial aid.
- Free laundry equals clean clothes. No trips to the neighborhood laundromat.
- A four-year degree is cheaper than a five-year degree. When you live on campus, you are more likely to graduate on time.

- Experience living on your own and independently in one of the best cities in the world.
- Come and go as you please...your curfew is YOUR own.

- Meet your next best friends in Campus Housing.
- Learn to step out of your comfort zone to meet new people and make life-long friends.
- We support you! We have an amazing network of resources within the University that we can connect you with to help you on your journey through college.

- Building Security and live-in staff are around to respond to needs around the clock.
- If you have concerns, there is always someone to speak with or refer you as necessary.
- Campus Housing watches out for you.

UIC STUDENT AFFAIRS

Campus Housing

housing.uic.edu
Sharper view of eye surgery

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Imagine needing to perform a surgery looking through the tunnel of a microscope. You need to manipulate your surgical tools within the space of a pea or less, and there’s no tactile feedback. You also need to use both feet to control certain features of your equipment. It’s not a task that you’d want to perform on a live patient for the first time, is it?

This need to hone fine skills before treating patients underlies the creation of the Cless Ophthalmic Surgical Training and Simulation Center housed in the Eye and Ear Infirmary. The lab lets ophthalmology residents, fellows and surgeons perfect eye surgery techniques in a simulated surgical setting. The Cless lab has been in use since 2015, but was officially dedicated in June when the department hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony.

“Surgeons need to simultaneously use their hands, feet and eyes in a highly coordinated fashion for most surgeries,” said Mark Rosenblatt, professor and head of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the College of Medicine. “Being able to practice in a dedicated eye surgery simulation environment means they can easily practice both routine and new surgeries so that the risk for complications is significantly reduced when they operate on patients.”

The lab includes nine surgical simulation stations. Each station has two surgical microscopes that look down on an operating field. One is for the fellow or resident practicing—the other allows an instructor or partner to observe the operation.

Trainees and surgeons can operate on a partially disposable plastic eye, a pig or human eye, or a highly advanced computerized plastic eye that senses the surgeons tools inside the eye and projects a realistic simulated video image of a human eye undergoing surgery back through the microscope in real time 3-D.

Most of the stations also come with several pre-programmed modules or a defined curriculum that allow surgeons to practice specific surgeries. On the simulated eye, Rosenblatt chooses a cataract surgery module and gets to work breaking up a virtual cataract and vacuuming up the debris. He uses the same exact machine, hooked up to the surgical station, that he uses in the operating room to pulverize and remove a cataract.

“It’s tremendously hard to mimic eye surgery outside the operating room, but the Cless lab gets very, very close,” said Jose de la Cruz, assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the College of Medicine. “The lab is really an advanced teaching tool, and we have built training curricula around the use of the lab. But students can always come to the lab on their own time to practice outside of formal classes.”

All the microscopes can project their field of view onto four large flat-screen monitors around the room so that others in the lab can watch along. The video can also be transmitted outside the lab to other simulation labs, to conferences or to physicians in other countries. Just as the video from the lab can be shared outside UIC, the screens can also receive video feeds from other labs or operating rooms so that surgeons can practice along with surgeons in another state or country. All the video feeds can also be recorded and stored for later viewing.

“All the tools used in the wet lab are exactly the same as those tools the surgeon would use in the operating room,” said de la Cruz. The surgical simulation lab also lets surgeons get the feel for using new surgical instruments. The Cless lab has already hosted a regional course training senior surgeons new forms of less invasive corneal transplantation.

The lab, which has multiple philanthropic funders, is named after the Cless family. Gerhard Cless first came to know UIC in 1995 when he was referred for treatment for a macular hole. Since then, his foundation has supported research, patient care and education through over $1.75-million in philanthropic giving.
The Employee Recognition Award Ceremony will recognize recipients of the Award of Merit, Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence Award (CAPE), Janice Watkins Award, UIC employees celebrating 25 years through 50 years of service, and the campus accolades of UI Health’s Class Act Award, Employee of the Year, and Physician of the Year.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
At the UIC Forum – 10:30 a.m.
Ceremony followed by reception.
The UIC Award of Merit is conferred by the university. This is a university-wide honor, recognizing outstanding Academic Professionals and Civil Service employees for sustained excellence in performance and commitment to their jobs.
UIC Award of Merit

U I HEALTH

The UIC Award of Merit is conferred by the university. This is a university-wide honor, recognizing outstanding Academic Professionals and Civil Service employees for sustained excellence in performance and commitment to their jobs.

Catherine Malong Abad
Assistant Chief Accountant
Hospital Finance

Jaroslaw Chylak
Senior Healthcare Applications Analyst
Department of Information Services

Eileen A. Doherty
Director, Perioperative Business Operations
Department of Perioperative Services

Kristina Erland
Psychiatric Social Work Consultant
Behavior Health Administration

Joel A. Hansen
Registered Respiratory Therapist II
Department of Respiratory Care

Stephanie Hultz
Assistant Supervisor of Medical Social Services
Department of Continuum of Care

Hilario “Lalo” Lechuga
Healthcare Reimbursement Analyst 1
Department of Continuum of Care

Catherine Lovely
Assistant Director, Organizational Development
Hospital Human Resources

Rachel Paus
Senior Marketing Manager
UI Health Marketing & Strategic Communication

Brett D. Smith
Radiation Oncology Physicist
Department of Radiology Oncology

Inés Sahagún-Bahena
Program Coordinator
Environmental Health & Safety Office

Allison D. Phillips
Director of Development Strategy
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Advancement

Martha L. Gutierrez
Senior Director
Office of Public and Government Affairs

Bhavin M. Patel
IT Technical Associate
Tech Support

Spencer Long
Associate Director
Student Development Services for Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Advancement
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The CHANCELLOR’S ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD (CAPE), established in 1988, recognizes the demonstrated excellence of Academic Professional staff and encourages their professional development. It indicates the institution’s high regard for the contributions of this key segment of our community. The CAPE Award is based on peer review broadly selected from the ranks of Academic Professionals. This year, there are six recipients of the CAPE Award.

Ifat “Eve” Ali Boles  
Director of Research Operations  
Department of Math, Statistics & Computer Science  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

John Fudacz  
Assistant Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Antonio D. Jimenez  
Senior Research Specialist in Health Sciences  
Department of Community Outreach Intervention Projects  
School of Public Health

Jaime Klaus  
Assistant Director of Internship Programs & Employer Outreach  
Department of Community Health Sciences  
School of Public Health

Mee Mee Lee-Choi  
Interim Senior Associate Director  
Office of Grants and Contracts  
Office of Business and Financial Services

Dale C. Lorens  
Associate Director, Essentials of Clinical Medicine  
Department of Medical Education  
College of Medicine

This award recognizes exceptional Civil Service members, who have distinguished themselves by performing their duties with diligence and superior dedication. This award is organized each year by the Staff Advisory Council in memorial to Janice Watkins, an individual who exemplified the highest level of service and dedication. Janice worked as a supervisor in the Insurance Office on UIC’s east campus and served as the President of the Staff Advisory Council.

Mariola Arriola  
Business Manager  
UIC Medical Bookstore  
Student Centers Administration

Edward Snulligan  
Program Assistant  
Community Outreach Intervention Projects  
School of Public Health

Glenn F. Willoughby  
Building Services Worker  
Physical Plant Administration  
Facilities Management Administration
The Physician of the Year award is presented to an attending physician who puts the patient first in all encounters, consistently contributes to the delivery of world class patient care, and personifies the core values of UI Health: Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence.

Gail Buenaventura
Healthcare Utilization Review Coordinator II
Department of Rehabilitation Nursing

Sam Choi
IT Technical Associate
Information Services

Kate Ciancio
Occupational Therapist
Department of Occupational Therapy

Debra Gilmore
Licensed Practice Nurse
Mile Square Health Center

Jamie Haley
Medical Social Consultant
Department of Care Coordination

Catherine Mahoney
Patient Care Coordinator
Department of Care Coordination

Tom Perrone
Sr. Operating Systems Analyst
Information Services

Fred Piemonte
Service Enterprises Manager
Physical Plant Administration

Julie Robichaud
Specialist in Physical Therapy
Department of Physical Therapy

Josiah Sault
Specialist in Physical Therapy
Department of Physical Therapy

Martin Stark
Ambulatory Care Aide
NeuroScience Center

Terrence Studer
Advance Practice Nurse
Mile Square Health Center

Hilario “Lalo” Lechuga
Healthcare Reimbursement Analyst 1
Department of Continuum of Care

Each year, the Employee of the Year recipient is selected by the UI Health’s Employee Recognition Committee from the year’s Class Act Award honorees. The recipient’s identity is announced at the annual UI Health Employee Recognition luncheon, which was held on October 14, 2016.

The Class Act Award is given to an employee described as a role model who continuously demonstrates exceptional competence and compassion in the performance of his/her job responsibilities and is an outstanding example of the UI Health’s values.

Dr. Fernando Testai
Assistant Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine
5 YEARS CONTINUED

John C. Meehan Brenda Lee Nichols
John L. Nitiss John L. Nitiss
Karim C. Nitiss
Heather Nixon
Leo M. Njorgmeta
Lauren E. Nolan
Maria Lourdes Norwick
Jed Edward Novales
Daniel Owen Nyhan
Bonaventure I. Ogou
Oluwakukunda
Ogunseitan
Susan Olaveja
Aimee L. Oliver
Lauren Marie Oliveri
Brian Thomas O’Neill
Brenda O’Neill
Tomas Ortiz
Ben Ost
Randall J. Owen
Jovonne Owens
Jacqueline
Pacheco-Frazier
Khristine Pardierns
Karol Palaisiewicz
James Panella
AnnaLeena
Parhankangas
Azalea Elizabeth Parrilla
Ivanna Pashaly
Heather Anne Pauls
Jason Paul Pawlowski
Elizabeth Pedraca
Rowena Natividad
Peralta
Katrina Vinola Percy
Cheryl A. Perry
Tara A. Peters
Michael Peter Petros
Lauren L. Petter
LaDonna T. Phillips
Sylena Fayun Phillips
David M. Pinson
Jennifer Yahaira Pinto
Kathy D. Piszczor
Jennifer Plakut
Lois Marie Platt
Ewa Podgorski
Mary Polk
Haranatha R. Potteti
Debora Preston
Eualia Puig Abril
Lisa K. Radville
Kathryn Radzewicz
Elizabeth Raigoza
Elizabeth Raley
Jasodra Ramdas
Alicia Ramirez
Gabriela Ramirez
Gwendolyn Ramirez
Mayra Ramirez
Brian Ramos
Allison Ziola Ramsden
Carol Reames-Trotter
Sekhar Pothisreddy
Reddy
Roger W. Reeses
Jales Rehanm
Rachel G. Ricafranca-Jao
Ana Catherine Ricardo
Eric Rietow
Raul Rivera
Maria D. Rodriguez
Mario Rodriguez
Virginia Rodriguez
Aaron Jerrold Rosenthal
Scott F. Rozman
Brenda Ruiz
Silvia Ruiz
Tiffany M. Ruiz
Regina Rushing
Jose Saez
Alex M. Sainvilier
Maren Saldivar
Jessica Salgado
Michael Samaniego
Bianca Sanchez
Francisco Sanchez
Vincent Sanchez
Mayra Sandoval
Christina Marie Sands
Katherine L. Sauers
Alexandria
Saulsberry
Melissa Karen
Giergerich
Sautter
Stacy Saxon
Angela Schild
Kristen C. Scheurich
Deborah R
Schwarz
Dan T. Schwarz
Darnell Scott
Tiffany J. Scott-Horton
Claire M. Seryak
Neeleof Shafi
Sanket Shah
Shiva Shahhara
Dandan Shan
Ba Shang
Jen B. Shearer
Jessica Shepherd
William Shoemaker
Andrew M. Shulman
Christina Marie Simmer
Tiffany M. Simon
Vinit Sinha
Thomas G. Sipple
Jeffrey Sklansky
Isabela Smirawijko
Mary Jo Smith
Reginald Alan Smith
Sara Smith
Monsheel Sonia Sodhi
Andrea Sokolowski
Marla Cohn Soloman
Kelly J. Soylas
Jessica Souke
Mariangely Raquel
Splotro
Monika Stoyanova
Staeva
Angela Staley
Angela Staley
Corrin Staley
Kevin Wesley Steelman
Leslie Vivzny Stiles
Ashley Stoffel
Timothy P. Sullivan
Ying Sun
Alexandr Cristian
Susma
Leticia Sustata
Nadzra Sweiss
Vanessa Antoinette
Tafolla-Flores
Kristie Marie Taggart
Pamela Tate
Leighton Zenon Taylor
Todd Alan Taylor
Nancy A. Tegtm
Brian Eric Telkamp
Matthew John Terdich
Bakul C. Thakkar
Kathy Ann Thomas
Kurian Thomas
Daniel Robert
Thompson
Janine Louise
Thompson
Patrick V. Tsangson
Billie Jean Tillman
Laura N. Tipe-King
Vito Tito
Deborah D. Toney
Charlotte M. Torres
Carla M. Tozer
Kim V. Tran
Steven T. Tsaoraides
Benjamin Van Voorhees
Philip K. Vazquez
Shea N. Velani
Carlos Gustavo
Velasquez
Neeta Kiran Venepalli
Alec Joseph Vitosky
Amanda Vukovics
John S. Wagner
Federico R. Waitoller
Kesha Latonya Walker
Li Wang
Qi Wang
Rronda Warden
Jeanette A. Webb
Torica L. Webb
Joanne Wegrzyonowicz
Nancy Elizabeth
Weidman
Sally Weinstein
Christina Rose Welter
Virge S. Welton
Melanie Wertz
Justin Wesley
Jeffrey D. Westphal
Kimberly Katrice White
Steven K. Whitley
Michael Wilkes
Carene Wilkins
Ray Anthony Wilkins
Benn Edan Williams
Danyelle Darlene
Shanta
Williams
Glanoli V. Williams
Terry L. Williams
Brandi Williamson
Kevin Winkfield
Alyssa Nicole Wistlander
Ashley Nicole Witas
Michael C. Wolski
Urena L. Woods
Minjie Wu
Kelvin E. Wynn
Haidee Yabes
Junling Yang
Zheng Yang
Joseph Ybe
Nina Undevia Yedavalli
Andrew Zago
David M. Zalk
Sergio L. Zamora
Ilir Zenku
Chongxu Zhang
Christopher P. Zwiercan

University of Illinois at Chicago

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Campus Charitable Fund Drive
October 7, 2016 to November 18, 2016
http://www.hr.uic.edu/paychecksinfo/charitable/

RETIREMENT LUNCHEON
March 8, 2017, by invitation only
http://www.hr.uic.edu/employee_recognition/retirement_recognition/

RETIREMENT PLANNING CONFERENCE
April 29, 2017, registration opens March 1
http://www.hr.uic.edu/benefits/alumni_retiree_benefits/
Greg Thatcher // Innovator of the Year

By Sam Hostettler — samhos@uic.edu

Greg Thatcher is working to find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease, neurodegenerative disorders, cancer, sleep disorders, and breathing. The illnesses may seem dissimilar but they have one commonality: Greg Thatcher is working to find a cure for them all.

Throughout his career, Thatcher has melded his expertise in academia and science with business. His numerous patents have led to the launch of several start-up companies whose goal is to bring drug candidates to clinical trials. Innovation does not just come from time and effort, Thatcher said, but also money.

“Venture capital financiers will tell you that ideas are 10-a-penny. In drug discovery, it will take $5 million to $10 million and two years to take an idea from bench to a signal that the drug has any effect in humans, and the cumulative risk of failure is over 90 percent,” said Thatcher, Hans Vahlteich Endowed Chair of Medicinal Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy.

For an idea to have value, we must try to move the idea beyond the academic setting to become a translation technology that can potentially provide real benefit to society at large and relieve the suffering of disease, even if the risk and effort is very high.

A prolific scientist, Thatcher’s expertise bridges chemistry and biology, and includes nitric oxide chemical biology, oxidative stress, protein covalent modification, and estrogen receptor modulation focusing on Alzheimer’s disease and breast cancer. He has been involved in several start-up companies, the latest, TTC Oncology, with Debra Tonetti, associate professor of pharmacology.

The new company licenses agents for therapy of treatment-resistant breast cancer and an alternate family of agents for breast cancer that have also been out-licensed. He also has several Alzheimer’s disease technologies currently licensed to biotechnology companies. Both approaches to treating breast cancer were pioneered by a graduate student, Rui Xiong, proving Thatcher’s mantra that smart, young trainees drive innovation.

Thatcher is also the founding director of a campus-wide center for drug discovery. The UICentre engages biomedical researchers in collaborative teams to translate ideas and inventions to small molecule, proprietary lead compounds for further drug research and development.

A faculty member since 2003, Thatcher has supervised or co-supervised more than 45 graduate trainees and has been involved in pre- and postdoctoral training and education, mentoring trainees who have proceeded to leadership positions in the pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology and academia.

In addition to being named Innovator of the Year, Thatcher has also been named UIC Graduate Mentor of the Year and a University Scholar.

Thatcher is currently principal investigator or co-investigator on nine active grants, funded by either the National Institutes of Health, private industry, or the Chicago Biomedical Consortium. Jerry Bauman, dean of the College of Pharmacy, said Thatcher’s work is “truly translational.”

“It is extremely clear that Greg is an innovator, and I can think of no one more deserving of this award,” Bauman said. “We are proud to have him at UIC and in our college.”

Brian Kay // Inventor of the Year

By Christy Levy — christyb@uic.edu

For Brian Kay, the thrill of science isn’t just in finding the solution to a problem. The process of getting there is just as exciting.

“I like thinking of elegant solutions to problems,” said Kay, professor of biological sciences. “Scientists are often result-oriented, but I’m also process-oriented.”

Kay, who uses new approaches to study antibodies, has developed four technologies within four years that could revolutionize his field. For his work, Kay was named the 2015 UIC Inventor of the Year by the Office of Technology Management. The award is given to a researcher who has made contributions to the development of intellectual property at UIC that have the potential to make a significant impact.

“At heart, I’m a technologist,” Kay said. “I’ve always thought of myself as being an inventor and a scholar, so it was very nice to be recognized in that respect.”

Kay’s work focuses on antibodies, which are produced by the body’s immune system to fight bacteria and viruses. His work aims to discover ways to replace antibodies that are made in animals with new techniques that could be made in a laboratory. Traditionally, antibodies are made by immunizing a mouse or rabbit, then harvesting the antibodies from their blood. It often takes two or three months to generate rabbit or mouse antibodies for each protein.

“That’s a very tried-and-true method,” Kay said. “It works well, but there are some problems. The antibodies are heterogeneous and not renewable, so you are limited in what you can do.”

In 2011, Kay received a four-year, $1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research. He created four inventions during the grant period that employ protein engineering and molecular biology to make antibodies that are better, faster and cheaper. One invention has a patent and three have patents pending.

His work could be applied to identify emerging diseases or develop therapeutics.

“The technology could allow for a test of the Zika virus or another emerging disease quickly, so you could have on-demand quality and generate reagents for an emerging disease,” he said.

“The work could also be used long-term in generating therapeutics. Antibodies could be injected into patients to treat diseases like rheumatoid arthritis or cancer.”

Kay was recognized for his inventions during a ceremony in June in Student Center East.

“There are a lot of smart people here at UIC, so to get a little attention is humbling and gratifying,” he said.
FLAMESFLIX

MOVIE SERIES

THURSDAYS - 4PM & 7PM
SATURDAYS - 2PM & 5PM
FREE WITH I-CARD
$5 WITHOUT I-CARD

JAMES STUKE'S TOWERS EVENT CENTER
718 W. ROCHFORD ST
CHICAGO, IL 60607

Thursdays:
09/29  Fast and Furious Tokyo Drift
10/06  Coach Carter
10/13  Wolf of Wallstreet
10/20  Insidious
10/27  The Conjuring
11/03  How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
11/10  Money Monster
11/17  Keanu
12/01  Elf

Saturdays:
10/01  Purge: Election Year
10/08  Ghostbusters
10/15  The Secret Life of Pets
10/22  Sausage Party
10/29  Suicide Squad
11/05  War Dogs
11/12  Jason Bourne
11/19  Sully
12/03  The Magnificent Seven

Free for UIC Students, Faculty, and Staff with i-card, $5 for Non-UIC affiliates (Cash Only)
Go Cubs Go!
Fans celebrate World Series win on campus
By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

The Inner Circle was decorated in Cubbie red, white and blue Thursday to celebrate the Chicago Cubs’ 2016 World Series victory.

“Some of our students have never celebrated a Chicago championship,” said Joy Vergara, executive director of the Center for Student Involvement, who organized the event.

The Cubs clinched the World Series Nov. 2 with an 8-7 win over the Cleveland Indians. The last time the Cubs won the title was in 1908, when the team called the West Side Grounds home. The area, where South Wolcott Avenue and Polk Street intersect, is now part of the College of Medicine.

Senior Juliana Theorell, a lifelong fan who watched the game at UIC, said she experienced a rollercoaster of emotions during Game 7, which included blown leads, a rain delay and a final, excited group huddle.

“At first I felt a sense of relief, and then about the seventh or eighth inning, tense,” she said. “I was on the edge of my seat in the ninth inning, and by the 10th inning, I was biting my fingernails, but it worked out in the end.”

The win was achieved over the span of five hours, and many fans stayed up late to soak it all in.

Ashley Veras, a sophomore in psychology, was up past 1 a.m. with her family witnessing history.

“I had to wake up at 6 a.m. the next day, and it was just torture, but my family is really big on the Cubs and the Blackhawks, so it was really important to us,” she said.

Students and staff who attended the celebration Thursday served themselves nachos and hotdogs while ESPN played in the background — essentials for a baseball-themed event. Those who showed their spirit by singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” or participating in other activities won Cubs gear and memorabilia.

“This whole city is celebrating,” said Sameer Mujtaba, a student in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. “The feeling is indescribable.”

“This celebration is great,” added Theorell. “I’m glad UIC is giving the opportunity for us to do this.”
SPORTS

Women’s basketball breezes past North Park

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

UIC used a balanced attack and a prolific fourth quarter run to put away the North Park Vikings in exhibition action Friday at the UIC Pavilion, 84-51.

The balance showed itself early on as seven players scored for the Flames in the first quarter. Fifth-year senior Terri Bender led all players with five points in the opening 10 minutes.

The Flames opened things up even further in the second quarter as they doubled up the Vikings 22-11 to snag a 44-29 lead at the half.

UIC’s defensive effort also intensified as it held North Park to 11 points and a mark of 30.8 percent from the field in the second 10-minute segment.

The Flames continued to grow their overall advantage as they held the Vikings to 11 points for the second consecutive period to take a 23-point cushion into the final quarter.

UIC created some serious distance in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter. After the Vikings scored the quarter’s first basket, the Flames used a 10-0 run over a quick 2:15 span to balloon the lead to 35 points. Newcomer Kiki Bynes scored the final seven points of the spurt over 87 seconds.

UIC used its discernable size advantage to own the glass, the Flames outrebounding North Park, 50-31. UIC’s Teodora Zagorac paced all players collecting 10 rebounds, including five on the offensive end.

Five players made their UIC debut Friday. Freshman Tyra Carlsen-Handberg was in the starting lineup, while Bynes, Gabryelle Johnson, and Lacy Stewart and Tyahn Lampley contributed in a reserve role.

Melita Emanuel-Carr and Desiree Jackson led the Flames with 10 points.

UIC will begin the regular season next week when it hosts Lake Forest at the UIC Pavilion at 7 p.m. Friday. The contest is the first in a season-opening four-game home-stand to start the 2016-17 campaign.

Men’s basketball knocks out Judson

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

UIC turned up the jets on both ends of the floor in the late stages Saturday as they knocked off the Judson College Eagles, 95-78, in an exhibition contest. The Flames outscored the Eagles, 25-8, over the final 7:30 minutes to cruise to the victory.

Sophomore Dikembe Dixson led all players with 34 points in the victory, while newcomers Tarkus Ferguson, Godwin Boahen and K.J. Santos were in double figures in the scoring column with 12, 11 and 11 points respectively.

UIC got off to a fast start. After winning the opening tip, Tai Odiase slammed home a pass from freshman K.J. Santos just 10 seconds into the contest.

After taking a 15-8 lead, the Flames surrendered an 8-0 run that ended when Marcus Ottey came up with a steal and a slam at the other end to regain the lead at 17-16.

The home team ballooned its lead back to a half-high nine points with 1:46 to play in the period following an acrobatic layup from Dixon.

The Eagles pulled to within two after a three-point basket with 50 seconds remaining, but Ferguson drained a triple with 34 seconds to go for a halftime score of 44-39.

Judson briefly took the lead in the second half with 17:58 left after scoring the first six points of the stanza. Dixson hit a mid-range jumper nine seconds later to regain the edge.

Later, the Eagles regained the lead but UIC used a 16-8 run to tie the game when Ferguson buried another three-pointer. Ferguson’s free throws gave the Flames a lead again.

The Flames closed the game on a 25-8 run over the game’s final 7:30.

Odiase blocked three shots in 22 minutes, while newcomer Clint Robinson rejected a pair.

Santos, a 6-foot-8 freshman, dished out a team-high four assists for UIC. The Flames had 13 helpers as a team.

Dixson scored a game-high 34 points in only 26 minutes of action.

UIC begins its regular season Friday with a road trip to the West Coast. The Flames meet the San Francisco Dons at 10 p.m. CST.

FLAMES @ HOME

Friday, November 11
Women’s basketball vs. Lake Forest
7 p.m. / UIC Pavilion
Volleyball vs. Youngstown State
7 p.m. / Flames Athletic Center

Saturday, November 12
Volleyball vs. Northern Kentucky
4 p.m. / Flames Athletic Center

Monday, November 14
Women’s basketball vs. Illinois State
7 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

Wednesday, November 16
Men’s basketball vs. University of Texas San Antonio
7 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

MORE SPORTS AT uicflames.com