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Promoting diversity, not simply for Africans

By Temitope Odedoyin — todedo2@uic.edu

The African Student Axis Council (ASC) happily welcomed old and new members of the club during a fun potluck Oct. 11.

The event, held in Marie Robinson Hall, was not simply for Africans, but also for students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. The organization is open to all students.

Fatima Ali, president of the ASC and senior majoring in rehabilitation science, was happy about the diversity displayed during the event.

“We fulfilled the goal of the event, which is to bring people from different backgrounds together to interact, have fun, network and enjoy meals,” she said.

Nigerian songs were played as guests enjoyed the main dish, a popular Nigerian dish of jollof-rice, plantain and chicken. Some students brought other types of food and snacks.

Linda Chioma Onoh, a junior in pre-nursing, said she believes the event gets better each year.

“I really like the African Student Council potluck event,” she said. “We promote diversity and it has always been a great way to connect students from African diaspora and other parts of the world through culture, music and food.”

Ali anticipates that the organization will become even more diversified.

“The club has definitely changed and is still changing,” she said. “We have people from different countries come in and out of the club. We hope to see people from different parts of Africa, as well as people from other parts of the world joining and contributing by teaching others about their heritage and history.”

READ MORE
“WE HOPE TO SEE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF AFRICA, AS WELL AS PEOPLE FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD JOINING AND CONTRIBUTING BY TEACHING OTHERS ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE AND HISTORY.”

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Isadore and Sadie Dorin were teenagers in the early 1900s when family contacts in the United States offered them a refuge on the West Side of Chicago from the devastation of the Russian Revolution and the anti-Semitism in Europe.

In this country, Isadore and his wife, Sadie, who arrived separately and met in Chicago, were able to earn enough money running a produce store to raise their five children, Leah, David, Bingy, Mollie and Bud during the Great Depression. Today, only David and Bud survive.

"WE WERE TAUGHT THAT EDUCATION WAS IMPORTANT, BUT ALSO CONSIDERATION AND HELP FOR OTHERS."

Since the family was raised near what is today the UIC campus, David, who is president of the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Foundation, has chosen to honor his parents by providing UIC with a $3 million gift. UIC will recognize the foundation's generosity through a term naming of the UIC Forum as the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Forum at UIC, as well as through establishing a permanently endowed fund to provide scholarships to undergraduate students from Cook County.

"They came over with practically nothing, no money, no access to anything — but they worked very, very hard," said David, 98. "They were immigrants and they started something in Chicago…"

immigrants were a big part of making Chicago what it is and I think making the United States what it is."

UIC plans to celebrate the gift Oct. 28 at the launch of IGNITE: The Campaign for UIC, an inclusive, high-energy event for donors and alumni, hosted by UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis. A formal unveiling event for the new name of the UIC Forum will be held in the spring.

The Dorins' story in the United States began when Sadie and a younger brother left what is now Ukraine and managed to get to Hamburg, Germany, before sailing to this country and eventually landing in Chicago. Isadore followed a few years later when he also left Ukraine and followed an older brother, who had previously settled in Chicago.

Once here, Isadore and Sadie each found a strong, tight-knit family structure that helped support the newest arrivals of their respective families. Sadie and Isadore married after having met through their families. As immigrants, they each knew they had to contribute their share to bolster their extended family here and to help others emigrate from Europe.

"Everybody took care of each other," said Bud, 87. "Nobody asked; it was just done. It was just how it was. They were survivors."

Sadie had gone as far as high school in Russia, which was unusual for a woman. She also learned the art of business from her father, who would buy live chickens, slaughter them and sell them throughout Europe along with other food items. In Chicago, Sadie worked in a factory, earning $6 a week.

Isadore first worked as a peddler and shoveled snow during the winter months before he and Sadie opened a produce store in a rented West Side storefront, where they lived in a small rear apartment. Isadore worked nearly 18 hours a day to nurture his business and provide for his growing family.

As Isadore's businesses became more successful, he bought a car for his wife to drive, at a time when women were not typically behind the wheel. Being a short woman, she struggled to reach the controls of the Packard and look out over the windshield, but her determination never stopped her from taking her children on excursions and long trips to the 1933 World's Fair, trips to Michigan and other road trips.

Among their more prized memories, Bud and David remembered the weekly summertime trips they took from their West Side home along 12th Street (now Roosevelt Road) to the 12th Street beach, where they would cool off in Lake Michigan as their mother spent the day reading and watching over her brood.

On these trips, they would drive along Roosevelt Road, often stopping at the Maxwell Street market near Halsted Street, where they would take in the sounds of Italian, Russian, Yiddish and other languages.

The location of the UIC Forum at the southeast corner of Roosevelt and Halsted Street presented an opportunity for their parents to keep their legacy alive. It is from that foundation they are making this gift to UIC.

The Isadore and Sadie Dorin Scholarship will support undergraduate students with high academic achievement who graduated from a Cook County high school. David and Bud hope that the future beneficiaries will be appreciative of the struggles their parents had to endure.

"We were taught that education was important, but also consideration and help for others. We felt an obligation to the family, the community and to live up to certain standards," Bud wrote in a family history.

Over the years, the remaining family members set up a foundation in their parents' name to keep their legacy alive. It is from that foundation they are making this gift to UIC.

The Isadore and Sadie Dorin Scholarship will support undergraduate students with high academic achievement who graduated from a Cook County high school. David and Bud hope that the future beneficiaries will be appreciative of the struggles their parents had to endure.

"I know it's not an easy thing these days to get through college," David said. "The Dorin name is very important and I think our parents deserve all the credit they can get."
Celebration taps UIC’s 70 years of theatre and music magic

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

In 1946, as universities around the country faced huge numbers of former WWII soldiers wanting to take advantage of the G.I. Bill to get a college education, University of Illinois officials set up the Chicago Undergraduate Division at Navy Pier.

By the following year, thousands of former soldiers and others had clambered onto the pier to attend the school, nicknamed the “narrowest university in the world,” the “horizontal cathedral of learning,” and even “Harvard on the Rocks,” which would eventually morph into UIC.

As the popularity of Chicago’s only public university began to grow, the number of courses increased and students interested in the performing arts 70 years ago finally had a home in the School of Theatre and Music.

On Friday, the School of Theatre and Music will host a Platinum Jubilee as a celebration of 70 years of theatre and music at UIC. View the schedule at bit.ly/2yyVC49.

The event is a way to “dream” about its next 70 years, said Steve Everett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts.

“I think it is important to remember that the performing arts have been an integral part of this university since its founding at Navy Pier,” Everett said. “The arts are universally understood to be central activities in forming strong community relations and long-lasting and meaningful social connections. This 70th Jubilee is an important moment for reflection on the theatre and music program’s contributions to our students’ careers and to the cultural vitality of Chicago.”

Over the years, many gifted artists have emerged from UIC, including the Grammy Award-winning jazz great Ramsey Lewis; actor Michael Gross, who played the iconic father figure in Family Ties; and actor and musician Janina Gavankar, who starred in HBO’s True Blood and NBC’s The Mysteries of Laura.

“Our let me be in its band, choir and everything else I chose to be in,” Gavankar told UIC Alumni Magazine, noting that the university even “respected the fact that I still wanted to take marimba lessons and allowed it as an independent study.” Theatre professors who were performing on stage in Chicago also impressed Gavankar. “I could go see their shows during semesters…I was so enamored with them, and I still am.”

The 70th Jubilee is an important moment for reflection on the theatre and music program’s contributions to students’ careers and to the cultural vitality of Chicago, Everett said.

“The 70th Jubilee is an opportunity for alumni from across the decades, and across the nation, to come together to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the work they did together,” said Christine Mary Dunford, director of the School of Theatre and Music. “It is also an opportunity for them to learn more about the exciting growth that has been happening in theatre and music at UIC over the past few years, and how they can support current students as they prepare to launch their own careers.”

In recent years, the arts have been having a greater impact on student’s lives across the university. The theatre and music programs have ramped up their offerings of general education classes for the entire UIC student body, including new online classes. The music faculty enrolled more than 3,200 UIC students in performing arts classes in 2017.

The department has added additional award-winning music and theatre faculty and staff with particular performing arts specialties, such as playwriting, theatre design, and music technology and business, which have greatly enhanced the depth, quality, and diversity of its offerings, Everett said. To meet student interest, new ensembles include Maria-Chi Fuego and the Flames of Funk. The jubilee also serves as a way to begin to dream about where the arts programs at the university should go in the next 70 years. Eventually, officials hope to gather enough interest and support to one day build a “Center for the Arts,” offering additional teaching, rehearsing, performing and design spaces to meet its increased demand among students.

“This future facility, along with the excellent faculty we have assembled, will assure UIC’s role in preparing the next generation of great arts innovators and cultural producers in Chicago,” Everett said. “The next 70 years of arts at UIC looks even brighter for our campus community and its impact on the cultural vibrancy of Chicago, Illinois, and the nation.”

For more information, call (312) 355-0480.
Bread oven startup is on the rise
Faculty member finds invention inspiration at home

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

This is it: the oven that can help everyday people make delicious, artisan-style bread — without the fuss or frustration that comes with other bread-making tools on the market.

It’s called the Fourneau Bread Oven, a venture started by Sharon and Ted Burdett, who cofounded the Chicago-based studio Strand Design. The wife-and-husband team create high-quality products with longevity, sustainability, style and consumer needs in mind. But for the Fourneau Bread Oven, their inspiration came from home.

“We got into bread baking using a method called the no-knead dough recipe and the superheated container method,” said Ted Burdett, an instructor of industrial design at UIC. Popularized by the New York Times in 2006, both methods are pretty self-explanatory. Instead of kneading dough, people use long fermentation times, heat and steam to make fine-bakery quality bread.

Cast-iron Dutch ovens are the common go-to tool. Aesthetically similar to pots, they’re placed inside of home ovens for a steam effect. Do-it-yourself bakers preheat the Dutch oven in their traditional ovens, put the dough in and move the Dutch oven back. But by using this technique, the Burdetts were having a hard time controlling the shape of their bread.

“It was a very improvised process,” said Ted Burdett. It has some big drawbacks: the cookware can weigh as much as 20 pounds, making it hard to move, and its cast-iron material heats up to about 500 degrees. That means bakers can easily burn themselves and ruin their bread.

“We decided there’s got to be a better way,” Ted Burdett said.

Finding no safer, easier or more effective alternative, the recent alum of the UIC Lautaud Graduate School of Business (’17) and his wife, Sharon, a professor of design at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, made one.

“We changed the orientation of the baking container so that it doesn’t need to be removed from the oven,” said Ted Burdett.

Made from cast iron, the Fourneau bread oven is dome-shaped to create a steam oven effect, but it also comes with a hatch, removable handle, oven mitt and silicone baking mat; bakers just slide the loaf in or out of the oven to get high-quality rolls, baguettes, boules, pizzas and more.

In 2015, they launched their first crowdfunding campaign for the Fourneau and received $165,798 in funding from 790 backers, a successful start to their venture. Two years later — last April — the pair competed in the 2017 UIC Startup Challenge and won.

“Going through the process of preparing a business plan and preparing a pitch deck makes you think about your business in a different light and that’s been invaluable in planning the future of Fourneau,” Ted Burdett said. It also prepared them for a bigger win. Kickstarter invited them this summer to be part of their Gold campaign, which brings the online community’s favorite creators back for a second take on past projects. The demand for bread ovens was even higher — Fourneau 2.0 received full funding in 24 hours and raised about 400 percent more than the Burdetts’ original goal of $50,000. The latest oven now retails for $245 at fourneauoven.com.

“We like the growth trajectory this is on,” Ted Burdett said. “We’ve hit bumps in the road, but we’re really thrilled.”
Urban garden shows students big picture

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Where does your food come from? When preparing dishes in class, nutrition students in the College of Applied Health Sciences can point to their shared backyard on Taylor Street, which houses one of the college’s new and most important “classrooms” — the UIC Nutrition Teaching Garden. There, students follow the growth of their produce and other food-bearing plants from seeding to harvest time to holistically study what goes into making high-quality foods and nutritious meals.

“We need them to know the big picture,” said Renea Solis, clinical instructor in kinesiology and nutrition. The program uses biological and physical science to teach undergraduates about nutrition and its relationship to human health. In other words, students’ understanding of meals and food starts from the ground up.

“Part of that is going back to the farm,” said Solis, who grew up living and working on farms in Indiana. In Chicago, that’s harder to do. So, with contributions from biological sciences, Solis and her colleagues brought the farm to students instead. And their efforts have been recognized with a Chicago Excellence in Gardening Award.

Last year, she started seeds for the Nutrition Teaching Garden at AHS, but to grow a larger variety of plants, some weren’t sown there. Instead, Solis started them at the UIC Greenhouse and Plant Research Lab, near Union and Taylor streets, where master gardener Matthew Frazel is based.

“I’ve worked in gardens my whole life,” said Frazel, who now manages the UIC greenhouse, 3,600 feet of controlled growth space that supports faculty research and other initiatives on and off campus.

“So I have a pretty good sense of the things that you need to have like access to water, good light and soil.” Frazel gave AHS helpful advice about those essentials when the AHS garden was in its early stages of development. Since it was built, he’s offered more: an extra pair of expert eyes and hands.

“In the Chicago area, you sometimes need space to put plant material to get a bit of a head start. So we set up a plan for how [Solis] could do that here,” Frazel said.

Solis started seeds for tomatoes, onions and a variety of herbs in the greenhouse, where staff fertilize plants, control room temperatures and keep pests away. The partnership has also allowed AHS staff to extend their growing season and get support when seasons change.

“It’s a cooperative relationship,” Frazel said. “We like to support green things overall at the university.”

“It’s been really helpful to have [Frazel’s] input and knowledge,” said Solis, adding that he also checks plants for diseases. Some can wipe out an entire crop if they’re not spotted quickly enough.

Thanks to the collaboration, some students can seed plants and visit the garden for about 15 minutes during class. Most students focus on harvesting the plants. Others volunteer and work to maintain the garden with Solis during the summer time and when classes aren’t in session. “Growing food takes a lot of attention and work and that’s one thing we want to convey to students. Food doesn’t just show up on grocery shelves,” says Renea Solis, clinical instructor in kinesiology and nutrition. (Photos: Carley Mostar)
Guiding self-care for patients with heart failure

By Francisca Corona—fcoron3@uic.edu

Heart failure.
It’s a chronic condition where the heart can’t efficiently pump blood through the body.

After patients with heart failure are admitted to the hospital, health care advisors explain the condition. Before those patients are discharged, nurses tell them what their next steps should be to prevent worsening of the disease. Educational materials, which can include the doctor’s discharge notes, are provided.

But what if after leaving the hospital, a patient still doesn’t understand the disease process, what happened during their hospital stay, why self-care is important or even the medical jargon — like hypertension or volume overload — used to explain it all? Their chances of readmission are higher — and their condition may get worse.

“Readmission is associated with several factors, including noncompliance with lifestyle modifications like eliminating salt, increasing water intake and not using medication as directed,” said Amer Ardati, physician at UI Health and assistant professor of medicine. “One of the major causes of noncompliance is just poor education and poor communication between the health care advisors and patients.”

To fight high readmission rates, clinicians, researchers and scholars at UIC are collaborating to create customized summaries of hospital stays that can serve as guides for patients’ self-care.

“I HOPE THAT WE CAN TEST IT IN A CLINICAL SETTING AND TO REALLY SHIFT AND TRANSFORM THE WAY DISCHARGE TEACHING OCCURS IN HOSPITALS FOR PATIENTS WITH ALL CONDITIONS.”

“We’re trying to help explain the biology, as well as the motivation, to help engage patients to say, ‘Oh, the follow-up appointment or these medicines are actually going to help me stay out of the hospital,’” said Andrew Boyd, assistant professor of biomedical and health information sciences in the College of Applied Health Sciences.

Boyd leads the project with professor Barbara Di Eugenio from the College of Engineering, who is an expert in Natural Language Processing (NLP) software and text summarization that generates easy-to-read narratives summed up from select sources.

“I met Andy and I had some ideas on how to apply NLP to health care data,” said Di Eugenio, professor of computer science. “Little by little, we defined the project together.”

Called Patient Narr, the project employs a novel approach — not only because the team is creating summaries of hospital stays, but also because they’re extracting medical concepts from physician discharge notes and nursing care plans. Outside of typical hospital discharge materials, “the only thing that patients have available right now to access themselves is their electronic health record, which is completely incomprehensible, especially to people of lower literacy level, but even to us [outside of the healthcare field],” Di Eugenio said.

Combining information from nursing care plans and physician discharge notes could give patients a more holistic understanding of their stay, disease and self-care.

“If a patient only sees what the doctor’s thoughts are in interactions, you’re going to be missing three-fourths of the patient experience in the hospital,” Boyd said. He added that the Patient Narr group has also studied the similarities and differences between individual terms and terminologies used in nursing documentation and physician notes, which could lower the potential for misunderstandings while patients are in the hospital and even after they’re discharged.

“So, one of the benefits of language processing is we can take these two heterogeneous data sources and integrate them into a single narrative that currently, on the electronic health record, doesn’t exist,” Boyd said.

Their NLP system also improves the readability of the text by determining the complexity of the terms used by health care providers. Simple definitions replace judgment of both nurses and physicians and integrate it in a way that’s consumable by patients,” Boyd said.

The team’s next step? Using interviews with patients to create summaries that are patient-centric.

“Patient-centric medicine incorporates the perspective and experience of the patient as a source of information for treatment decisions and treatment plans,” said Richard Cameron, professor of linguistics in LAS. He talks to patients before they leave the hospital. “One of the ways of getting that information from patients is simply to ask them about their experience.”

Keywords, identified using transcripts of those interviews, will help their NLP system respond to concerns that patients have and create appropriate summaries that take into account things like cultural background, interests, literacy level, reading comprehension, and more.

Karen Dunn Lopez, a nursing informatics researcher in health systems science and a usability expert, is looking forward to leading the evaluation and improvement of the technology.

“I hope that we can test it in a clinical setting and to really shift and transform the way discharge teaching occurs in hospitals for patients with all conditions,” said Dunn Lopez.

Other collaborators include Carolyn Dickens, nurse practitioner at UI Health, and Sabita Acharya, a Ph.D. student in computer science.
UIC News  |  Wednesday, October 25, 2017

**CALENDAR**

**OCT. 25 WORKSHOP**

**DON’T CITE IT, WRITE IT!**
Interactive discussion on using Wikipedia in the classroom.
Noon–12:45 p.m.
Room 1-470, Daley Library

**OCT. 26 LECTURE**

**RACE AND SPACE: URBAN PLANNING AND THE POLITICS OF SPACE**
Lunchtime Lecture series provides brief but substantive overviews of the research on race, ethnicity, and public policy being produced by UIC scholars and funded by the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.
Noon–1:30 p.m.
Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
318 CUPPA Hall

**OCT. 26 LECTURE**

**IMAGINING THE BALKANS: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**
Lecture by Maria Todorova, history professor at the Urbana-Champaign campus.
4:30–6 p.m.
Room 1-470, Daley Library

**OCT. 30 LECTURE**

**UNIVERSITIES AND CITIES: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**
Public talk hosted by the UIC College of Education Office of Academic Affairs, featuring Steven J. Diner, professor of history at Rutgers University-Newark.
4–5:30 p.m.
2850 University Hall

**NOV. 3-DEC. 16 EXHIBIT**

**TRADUZTTORE, TRADITORE**
Gallery 400 exhibit curated by Karen Greenwalt and Katja Rivera that displays a range of works by international artists who expose and challenge global circuits of economic and cultural capital.
Tues.–Fri.: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sat.: Noon–6 p.m.
gallery400.uic.edu

**NOV. 1 WEBINAR**

**SOCIAL DISABILITY IN SURVEY RESEARCH**
Free Survey Research Methods Webinar on methodologies for addressing studies on sensitive social topics and the problem of survey measurement error due to social desirability concerns.
Sponsored by the Survey Research Laboratory.
Noon
srl.uic.edu/seminars/Fall17Webinars

**NOV. 4 SPECIAL EVENT**

**UIC’S VETERANS DAY 3K WALK/5K RUN**
Show support for UIC’s student veterans. Proceeds contribute to programs and initiatives that support UIC’s student veteran community.
Registration is $40; free for veterans, active duty and reserve members of the military.
8–11 a.m.
Quad
dos.uic.edu/vet5krun

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event
sweetened beverages
UIC to study taxes on
By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

UIC will lead a $4.9 million study on the implementation of sweetened beverage taxes in Cook County, Illinois, and Oakland, California.

Consumption of these beverages is the largest contributor to added sugar intake in the American diet and is related to adverse health conditions like Type II diabetes and obesity, which effects approximately one-third of Americans and is considered a key contributor to noncommunicable diseases globally.

The taxes are proposed as a policy instrument to reduce sugary drink consumption and improve population health.

Lisa Powell, distinguished professor and director of health policy and administration in the UIC School of Public Health, leads the study, which is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

"While we already know that sugar intake impacts body weight and health outcomes, we need to carefully and comprehensively evaluate the beverage tax in Cook County and Oakland to understand its net effect on sugar intake," said Powell, who is also director of the Illinois Prevention Research Center and a fellow of the Institute for Health Research and Policy.

In Cook County, the tax took effect Aug. 2 and is applied to nonalcoholic beverages sweetened artificially or with sugar, including soda, sports and energy drinks, ready-to-drink teas and coffees, and some juices. The tax in Oakland began July 1, but applies only to sugar-sweetened drinks, not artificially sweetened drinks.

Powell and her colleagues will assess how the tax influences the consumption and sale of both taxed and nontaxed beverages, the consumption of food, and the estimated daily sugar intake of residents.

Not only will the study look at these effects on health, it will also examine the amount of tax revenue generated, how the funds are used and the impact of the tax on local employment.

The study will also evaluate the various factors that may underlie any observed impacts, such as pass-through to taxed and nontaxed beverage and food prices, cross-border shopping, and marketing and promotion efforts. Researchers will collect data at baseline and at follow-up, which will take place regularly for as many as two years post-tax implementation.

The goal, Powell said, is to look at the taxes objectively and understand their impact at all levels — from potential health improvements to effects on the economy.

"This evaluation is intended to contribute to the development of a comprehensive evidence based on the potential effectiveness of beverage taxes to reduce sugary drink consumption and, importantly, overall sugar intake," Powell said. "It will also identify potential unintended consequences, providing critical evidence on the potential need for policy refinements."

Co-investigators are Frank Chaloupka, Jamie Chiriqui, Zeynep Isgor, Pierre Leger and Shannon Zenk.

UIC honored for student voter engagement
By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Since 2015, UIC has gone all in to get civic engagement rates up.

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nationwide effort to promote an active and informed citizenry on college and university campuses. Thursday was the first ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony, where UIC was honored with two recognitions among 296 competing institutions and 584 campuses.

UIC received the Bronze Seal for its voter participation rate between 50 percent and 59 percent in the 2016 election. The Champion Award spotlights UIC as the most engaged campus in the country.

"They speak highly of the work we’re doing at UIC," said Spencer Long, associate director of Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services (SLDVS). He attended the first ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C., Thursday to accept the awards on behalf of SLDVS and its core partners, including the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, Office of Public and Government Affairs, political science department, and a number of student organizations.

"This has been at the root of all the work we’re doing," Long said.

For the past year, the group has implemented an action plan to increase voter registration, education and turnout. The plan, created by a campus-wide committee, sparked long-lasting campaigns such as UIC Votes, which has included debate watch parties, early voting and more.

The result has been a 7 percent climb in UIC’s voter registration rate and a 13.9 point jump in voter participation, from 44.1 in 2012 to 55 percent in 2016. The jump was one of the largest increases in voter participation among more than 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities, according to Tufts University’s National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement. The voting rate of students who were already registered also increased from 57.9 percent to 70.6 percent. Those successes and the campus action plan helped the campus earn a Voter Friendly Campus designation from the Fair Elections Legal Network’s Campus Vote Project and NASPA in March.

"We’re above the national average and we’re going to continue to work at that," Long said.

Campus leaders will continue to encourage people to vote for midyear elections, when governors and members of the House of Representatives are chosen.

"UIC prioritizes civic and community engagement," Long said. "We want people to listen to our views and the needs of students."

Visit the ALL IN Campus Challenge Facebook page, @allincampuschallenge, to watch the ceremony.
DEATHS

Michael W. Redding
Vice Chancellor, Public and Government Affairs

Those who knew Dr. Michael W. Redding were well aware of his belief that higher education was a social justice issue and that for nearly 20 years, he made it his mission to let the world know of its importance to society as a whole.

Redding served as Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs at UIC, where he led a team that worked to establish strong relationships with outside entities where he could promote the mission of UIC.

Redding, who began his career in higher education at the University of Oregon in 2000, died Oct. 19 after a valiant fight with cancer. He was 52.

“Under his leadership, UIC established strong relationships with outside constituencies and elected officials, building on the many ways in which our mission contributes to society. He had a distinguished record of achievement in public higher education and service,” said UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis.

“Michael’s life’s work focused on issues that comprise the highest ideals of the UIC community, contributing to organizations that ranged from Special Olympics to the Affordable Housing Coalition.”

Field Museum President and Chief Executive Officer Richard Lariviere met Redding in 2009 when Lariviere became president of the University of Oregon, where Redding was working.

Redding served in senior public affairs leadership roles for more than 20 years. Prior to his arrival at UIC in 2013, he served as a member of the president’s senior leadership team, as well as Vice President of University Relations, Chief of Staff to the Office of the President, Vice President of University Advancement and Associate Vice President of Public and Government Affairs at the University of Oregon. Lariviere recalled that within minutes of meeting Redding, he became well aware of Redding’s love for higher education and knew he would be an inspirational colleague.

“Michael dedicated his professional life to public higher education. He understood its transformative power,” said Lariviere. “After his family, I don’t think there was anything that animated him more than making it possible for a student to get a better education.”

Lariviere said Redding was devoted to his wife, Lori, who is also a member of the UIC family, serving as faculty in the College of Education, and his two sons, Cameron, 17, and Lucas, 15. He loved spending his weekends with his family, often attending his sons’ school, sports and cultural activities. The family resides in Lake Forest.

“Lori and the boys were the most important things in his life. He shaped everything he did around them,” Lariviere said. “Watching the love for them manifest itself was a wonderful sight.”

Redding earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and received his master’s and doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His doctorate was awarded with distinction, and Redding’s dissertation was nominated for the Phi Delta Kappa, Tau Chapter Award for the best dissertation prepared at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

Redding also served as legislative director in the Office of Intergovernmental Relations for Oregon’s second largest city as well as U.S. public and government affairs representative for Texaco in Delaware. He held numerous volunteer leadership positions in professional and civic organizations, including service on the board of Oregon Special Olympics, Lane County Economic Committee and the Oregon Affordable Housing Coalition.

“He was a remarkable, generous, smart, and honest man. I am lucky to have known him as a friend,” said Lariviere. “Working in public higher education was his way of working for social justice, for creating pathways to equality in American society.”

Services have been held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cameron and Lucas Redding Education Fund (c/o Office of the Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, 601 S. Morgan St., 2833 University Hall, MC 102, Chicago, IL, 60607).
Examining link between nitrate, birth outcomes
By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

A group of international researchers led by Leslie Stayner, professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, will conduct the largest study of the effects of maternal consumption of nitrate-contaminated drinking water on birth outcomes among approximately 1 million babies born in Denmark.

The study is funded by a four-year, $2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“There are several animal studies that show high levels of nitrate consumption are linked to adverse birth outcomes, but there are only a handful of studies in humans, and those have relatively low numbers of participants and numerous design limitations,” Stayner said. “We very much need large and well-designed population-based studies to determine what the impact of this very common chemical is on human health.”

Nitrate comes from nitrogen, a plant nutrient supplied by fertilizers and animal manure, both of which are used extensively in farming. While water filtration facilities can remove many contaminants before water reaches homes, most county facilities in the U.S. cannot remove nitrates because the process — called reverse osmosis — is too expensive.

Stayner says Denmark provides “a practical treasure trove for epidemiological research” because its national health care system maintains a high quality database of patient medical records that is made available to qualified researchers.

Stayner and his colleagues will examine the medical records of babies born in Denmark between 1997 and 2013, and will look for specific adverse outcomes, such as pre-term delivery, low birth weight, reduced head circumference and body length, and birth defects.
Basketball game to benefit hurricane relief

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

The men’s basketball team will play an exhibition game at 6:30 p.m. tonight against St. Francis at the UIC Pavilion. All proceeds from the game will go toward hurricane relief.

The late addition to the preseason schedule came about following recent discussions by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) to come together in support of hurricane relief. Over the last several months, storms have severely damaged areas in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The UIC Lettermen’s Club and United Way of Metro Chicago will team up to collect monetary donations to support those in need.

This is a non-ticketed event. UIC students will be admitted free with a valid i-card, while all monetary contributions are welcome. A suggested donation of $10 will be collected by representatives of United Way of Metro Chicago and UIC Lettermen’s Club at the gates of the UIC Pavilion. All lower-level seating will be general admission.

“As we prepare for the upcoming season, we all want to do our part to lift up those who need a hand,” said head coach Steve McClain.

“College basketball brings so many people together throughout the course of the year for many reasons. This particular game will bring together two local teams that are preparing hard for the upcoming season, and it will bring needed attention and support to those touched by the hurricanes that have devastated parts of our country.”

The Fighting Saints won 18 games last season under the direction of head coach Ryan Marks, who begins his fifth season at the helm. Senior Iain Morison is the team’s top returning scorer after averaging a team-best 16.7 points per game a year ago. The center also averaged 6.7 rebounds per game and had a team-high 3.8 blocks on the season.

UIC is coming off a season in which it won 17 games and advanced to semifinals of the College Basketball Invitational. The Flames returned to the post-season for the first time since 2013 and were the only Horizon League program to win multiple post-season games a year ago with victories over Stony Brook and George Washington in the first two rounds of the CBI.

The Flames, led by All-Horizon League preseason team selections Dikembe Dixon and Tai Odiase, will ignite the regular season and begin a busy stretch of four home games in eight days starting at 7 p.m. Nov. 10 against North Carolina Central. The Eagles are coming off a 25-win season and a berth in the 2017 NCAA Tournament. Tickets are available by calling 312-413-8421.

Penalty kick is golden for Flames

By Tim Hurley — thruley@uic.edu

Max Todd scored on a penalty kick with just 44 seconds remaining in the second overtime Saturday to give UIC a 1-0 win over Cleveland State. The Flames (7-5-3, 4-2-1 HL) moved ahead of Cleveland State (5-7-2, 3-2-2 HL) in the Horizon League standings. They improved to 5-0-2 in their last seven games.

Cleveland State had the first chance for a set piece on a third-minute corner kick. UIC neutralized the threat and attacked in transition. Max Todd sent a quality cross to Jesus Perez, who forced a save by Pawle Majerle.

Shortly thereafter, UIC had three chances at a set piece. A free kick following a yellow card and two corner kicks gave them chances in the box. The Vikings’ defense was up to the task, and a couple of shots failed to find the target.

Two more opportunities came the Flames’ way in the 23rd minute. Another corner kick created action in front of the goal, but Majerle plucked the ball away from danger.

UIC controlled the majority of the second half and outshot the Vikings, 8-2, in the period. Cleveland State blocked and deflected a number of the Flames’ chances until late, when UIC played a man up due to an 81st-minute red card. Abel Guzman rifled a shot from the left flank that flew just wide of the far post. Todd tested Majerle with a would-be game winner, but the Viking goalkeeper made a save to keep the game scoreless.

With time winding down, the Flames sent the ball through the box only to have a Viking deflect it with his hand. Todd lined up the penalty kick and blasted it straight to the back support.

Oakland will visit Flames Field for a 7 p.m. contest Saturday. The Flames will honor their seniors (Abel Guzman, Joel Leon, Sasha Simon, and Jose Fuentes) at their final home appearance.

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