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UIC launches $750M fundraising campaign

By Sherri McGinnis González — smcginn@uic.edu

UIC launched “IGNITE: The Campaign for UIC,” on Saturday, Oct. 28. Hundreds of friends, alumni and donors attended the kickoff rally and celebration to support the university’s strategic priorities and master plan.

“The IGNITE campaign will join us together in rallying around our priorities and purpose, and raising the funds it will take to achieve our ambitious plans and become the model for public higher education in the 21st century,” said UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis.

The goal of the campaign is to raise $750 million to benefit UIC. As of Oct. 15, the University of Illinois Foundation has received commitments of more than $295 million in gifts, grants and pledges.

Through IGNITE, the university will raise funds to provide student scholarships, support new endowed faculty positions to retain and attract top scholars and researchers, equip faculty with the latest technologies for teaching and research, and build new facilities to improve the physical infrastructure of the campus to meet the growing needs of students and the community.

“With the help of philanthropy, we plan to build a Computing, Design, Research and Learning Center in Engineering; a Visual and Performing Arts Center in the College of Architecture, Design and the Arts; a new outpatient surgical care center for UI Health; and a new home for our College of Business,” said Amiridis.

The campaign, which will continue through 2022, will also fund research in key areas of excellence such as the human brain, social disparities, urban infrastructure, and functional and regenerative materials, and develop programs and partnerships to advance global health.

Recent gifts leading up to the launch of the campaign include $7.2 million from College of Nursing alumna M. Christine Schwartz to renovate student-centered spaces and create an advanced simulation learning center; $5 million from Herbert and Carol Retzky to create the first deanship at the UIC College of Pharmacy; $3 million from the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Foundation to establish an endowed scholarship fund for high achieving Cook County high school students and to rename the UIC Forum the Isadore and Sadie Dorin Forum; and $5 million from UIC alumnus and Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Curtis Granderson to build the Curtis Granderson Stadium.

UIC is Chicago’s only public research university, with over 30,000 students, 15 colleges, a hospital and a health sciences system. The campaign “will ensure UIC is best positioned to meet the needs of a growing student population, drive life-changing discovery, and strengthen our connections to the communities we serve,” said Amiridis.

At the kickoff event, the university also announced the formation of a new UIC Alumni Association to connect and engage with its more than 250,000 alumni.
CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS
Engineering, live-learn facilities coming to east side

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

As the academic year moves forward, plans for campus improvements do, too.
Construction for two UIC projects, including one new College of Engineering building and one new live-learn community, will begin in January. The projects are part of a decade-long framework for the physical development of UIC, called Envisioning Our Future: 2017–2027 Plan.

Another building project reflected in the plan, which is actively being fundraised for, is part of a dean’s vision to make more room for UIC’s growing engineering and computer science programs.

All three buildings will help the campus meet the plan’s priorities of supporting scholarship and research and improving the student experience.

“Our capital infrastructure must reflect the quality and impact of this institution if we are to achieve our educational, research and engagement goals; attract the best faculty and staff; and provide much-needed facilities for students,” wrote Chancellor Michael Amiridis in a July campus email about the additions.

For students, faculty and staff in the College of Engineering, the new 50,000-square-foot Engineering Innovation Building will house instructional space, research labs and faculty and staff offices. The Engineering Innovation Building will also include the university’s first high-bay structural research lab, where researchers can carry out a wide range of tests on large-scale structural components.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 17.

Other labs will be built “so they can be very flexible,” said David Taeyaerts, associate vice chancellor of learning environments and campus architect. “The space and infrastructure is all there to accommodate a range of different research types within the engineering field;” he said.

At its planned location, the northern part of Parking Lot 5, the building will provide room for three of the college’s departments — chemical, mechanical and industrial engineering, and civil and materials engineering — concentrating the College of Engineering in one area on the east side of campus by fall 2019. The facility will be the first new academic building on the east side since 1991.

The Computing, Design, Research and Learning Center — a more than 150,000-square-foot, six-story building — is also being planned. By the project’s envisioned completion date in 2021, the college hopes to have a place for the engineering community — including housing for UIC’s Department of Computer Science — to have access to more classrooms, interactive learning spaces and computing research labs in an area adjacent to the Engineering Research Facility on Taylor Street. The project has already received $4 million in gifts and multiyear pledges from more than 30 donors, who are being recognized as members of the college’s Founders Circle in a quiet phase of fundraising. More public fundraising will start at the beginning of 2018.

The placement of the two engineering buildings around an open green space, and also near three existing science and engineering buildings, will enable opportunities for people to engage in a C-Stop with a help desk and printing. The facility will also replace the Stevenson Hall classroom building, which has a significant amount of deferred maintenance and cannot support the needs of large classes.

“I think [this project] and the plans we have for the future are going to go a long way in furthering our record of enrollment growth,” said Taeyaerts, referring to the engineering corridor and Memorial Grove.

The facilities will also help the college accommodate the increasing number of students enrolled in engineering and computer science programs, now and in the future. Peter Nelson, the college’s dean, believes that enrollment could grow from 5,000 to 7,500 once the buildings are constructed. Engineering already has more than doubled its number of students since 2005.

To address the university’s overall projected enrollment growth — an increase of 5,000 to 10,000 students over the next 10 years — UIC will build its first living-learning environment. The community, which will be entirely financed through a public-private partnership with American Campus Communities, will be located near Harrison and Morgan streets. It’s expected to house more than 500 students by fall 2019 in a mix of traditional dorm rooms and suite-style units. The building will include lounges for studying and student interaction, offices, laundry rooms, a fitness center, a coffee shop, and more.

“This is the first in a long process of ultimately replacing all of the east campus housing stock,” said J. Rex Tollever, vice chancellor for student affairs. Campus leaders are planning to demolish existing dorms on the east side that have passed or are nearing their 40-year mark, such as the Commons and Courtyard residence halls.

On the academic side, the complex of buildings will include active learning classrooms, ranging in size from 32 to 288 seats, informal learning oases and a C-Stop with a help desk and printing.

The facility will also replace the Stevenson Hall classroom building, which has a significant amount of deferred maintenance and cannot support the needs of large classes.

“I think [this project] and the plans we have for the future are going to go a long way in furthering our record of enrollment growth,” Tollever said. “They’ll make us competitive in terms of what we’re offering to students, and we will continue to be a first-rate option for students and families.”

View more information on the 2017–2027 Plan at cppm.uic.edu/masterplan
Students see fruits of their labor
Rare banana tree flowers at Plant Research Laboratory

By Hoda Fakhari — hfakha2@uic.edu

The Willis Tower completes the scenery of a small patch of city grass at the corner of Halsted and Taylor streets, where a lone tree bears a surprising fruit — bananas.

Defying expectations, the Manila Hemp, a banana species native to the Philippines, has flowered upon planting in a foreign urban environment. The tropical plant, which was originally donated to UIC by the Chicago Park District’s Lincoln Park Conservatory, was transferred from a pot in late spring under the direction of the Plant Research Laboratory director Matthew Frazel.

The credit for the physical labor involved in the three-hour planting procedure goes to Shazia Hassan and Abdel Halloway, two passionate greenhouse workers. Hassan, a sophomore in biology, dug the hole for the tree, which stands at about 6 feet tall. She began volunteering at the greenhouse during her freshman year and is now a student worker.

Halloway is a sixth-year Ph.D. student with a focus on mathematical ecology and evolution who came to the greenhouse with a question about his dying geranium and has been a volunteer ever since.

Both Hassan and Halloway agree that the best way to learn more about UIC’s Plant Research Laboratory is to visit and ask questions.

“My overall effort has been to open the place, diversify it and people it,” Frazel said.

Over the course of the year, the lab is busy propagating plants at different stages of development. When Frazel joined the department three years ago, the greenhouse and its surrounding acre of land were virtually empty. Now, the space thrives with native prairie plants, succulents, garlic and even a beehive.

In addition to housing three faculty researcher sites, the Plant Research Laboratory hosts students through various departmental courses and educational camps. The entire facility has an open-door policy, but people who visit should be prepared to get their hands dirty.

“We try to get people to look and see things and touch things,” said Frazel. “I believe there’s a lot of value in keen observation of the natural world.”
Grant supports talented engineering students from low-income backgrounds

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

The College of Engineering has received a grant to provide scholarships, mentoring and internship opportunities to academically talented, low-income engineering undergraduates. The goal of the scholarship program is to have students graduate into STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) advanced degree programs or secure jobs in STEM fields within six months of leaving UIC.

The $975,000 National Science Foundation grant will support 30 incoming freshmen engineering students who start in either fall 2018 or 2019. Students from low-income households will be encouraged to apply for the scholarship program based on their high school grades and ACT or SAT scores.

“There’s nothing more important to the College of Engineering than student success, and engineering and computer science education is an economic escalator for students coming from challenging economic backgrounds,” said Peter Nelson, professor of computer science and dean of the UIC College of Engineering. “Our programs, including this new one sponsored by the National Science Foundation, provide a clear path to our students.”

The College of Engineering designed the new program in response to growing evidence suggesting that students from low-income backgrounds have lower graduation rates and are less likely to find jobs in their respective fields than their peers from higher-income families.

“Lots of research shows that college success is dependent, in large part, on family income,” said Houshang Darabi, associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering and director of undergraduate studies in the UIC College of Engineering.

“Students who are the first in their families to go to college don’t have parents that can talk to them about what it’s like going to college to prepare them for the experience, and those parents are often at a loss when it comes to providing guidance on finding a job in their child’s chosen field,” said Darabi, who is also the principal investigator on the grant. “This puts these students at a real disadvantage, and the goal of this new scholarship program is to try to reduce the disparities in graduation rates and job placements between our students from high- and low-income backgrounds.”

In addition to providing scholarships toward tuition estimated to average $5,000 per student, scholars selected for the program will participate in activities in the summer before their first fall semester at UIC. In the summer bridge program, scholars will be matched with a student and a faculty mentor who will provide academic guidance, as well as an industry mentor who will provide career guidance. Scholars will also participate in paid summer internships either at a UIC engineering lab, or in one of more than 100 Chicago-area companies.

“These internships are in addition to the UIC College of Engineering Guaranteed Paid Internship Program offered to every incoming freshman or transfer student,” Darabi said.

In their sophomore and junior years, scholars will engage in service-learning projects. “These projects focus the students on solving community problems using engineering concepts,” Darabi said. “The goal of the service learning projects is to help build up each scholar’s sense of identity as an engineer and cement the idea in them that engineers are people who have a lot to contribute towards improving the day-to-day lives of people. This is a very important concept for them to have. It also goes a long way towards improving graduation rates and the likelihood that these scholars will secure jobs in their chosen fields.”

Darabi will closely monitor the program, and hopes that if it is successful, it can be made available to more students going forward.

Nelson, Jeremiah Abiade, Ludwig C. Nitsche and Renata Revelo Alonso in the UIC College of Engineering are co-investigators on the grant.

UIC among best public universities

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

UIC is one of the top student-focused universities in the nation, according to the voices of 200,000 current college students and outcomes of combined datasets. Times Higher Education ranked the University of Illinois at Chicago 23rd among the Best Public U.S. Universities and Colleges. The ranking was determined using data from the Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education 2018 U.S. rankings.

“We are delighted to see UIC included among the top 25 public universities in the nation in the most recent Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education rankings,” UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis said. “The methodology for this survey, which evaluates student outcomes and faculty productivity, reflects the quality of the student experience in our campus.”

This year’s comparative assessment used student opinions collected through the Times Higher Education’s annual Student Survey about engagement, student-teacher interactions and satisfaction with the college experience. Results are based on institutions’ performance in 15 individual indicators, created to reflect the values of students and their families. Factors include available resources, engagement, environment, campus diversity, graduation rates, loan repayment and employment after graduation.

To see the full list of Best Public U.S. Universities and Colleges, visit timeshighereducation.com.
The University of Illinois System will lead a new research institute that will be developed on a donated site in downtown Chicago, where world-class researchers will work side-by-side with students and businesses to foster next-generation innovation and workforce development.

Plans for the Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) were outlined by Gov. Bruce Rauner and U of I President Tim Killeen during an event Oct. 19 at the site donated by Chicago-based Related Midwest. The site is part of The 78, a 62-acre tract owned by Related Midwest that borders the Chicago River at Clark Street and Roosevelt Road. The 78 is the largest development of its kind in downtown Chicago, and also will include a mix of residential, office, retail, recreational and cultural space adjacent to a half-mile river walk.

The gift will kick off work on an implementation plan that will be completed next year. The plan will include a timetable for opening and other details of the $1.2 billion institute, which will be operated principally through private donations and partnerships with business and industry. DPI hopes to attract government support, as well.

The institute is the inaugural step in the development of the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), an initiative to spread DPI’s impact across the state.

“This unique new institute will add to the momentum that has been developing in Chicago to create an innovation infrastructure at the kind of scale that can massively accelerate progress and economic development in our state,” Killeen said. “It will build on the U of I System’s long, rich history of pioneering innovation, and a legacy of service to Illinois and to this global city that dates back more than a century.”

“DPI is a way for our state to harness its considerable research, computing and commercial resources to create economic opportunity all across Illinois,” Rauner said. “Combining research and development resources — from Carbondale to Chicago — and linking them with sources of capital will produce unparalleled growth for Illinois. IIN and DPI will become a magnet for talent and innovation for generations to come.”

DPI will connect top research faculty in agriculture, health care, computing and other critical fields with hundreds of businesses and thousands of students over time, as well as with entrepreneurs and venture capital firms. Their research and educational collaborations will address real-world challenges, promoting the kind of breakthrough discoveries that create new products and companies, while also providing hands-on experiences for students and nurturing a skilled workforce for the city and state.

“This campus for innovation, anchored by the University of Illinois, will be a transformative force on the South Side of Chicago and for all of Chicago,” Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. “I look forward to working with the governor and the many partners involved as we turn this vision into a reality.”

Along with serving Chicago, the institute ultimately will become the centerpiece of IIN, a virtually connected statewide enterprise allowing DPI staff to work with university and business partners in other regions across the state on research and education initiatives that help launch new companies and lift communities.

“This new institute capitalizes on the strengths of a university system already recognized around the world as a leader in education and discovery,” Killeen said. “It will put the U of I and our partners at the forefront of a dynamic model of higher education in our knowledge-based, 21st century economy — one designed to serve both our students and the public good.”

He said DPI and IIN will also benefit the System’s universities in Chicago, Springfield and Urbana-Champaign, and expand their impact across the state. Among other benefits, he said, the initiatives will provide hands-on opportunities for students to spend one to four semesters working with DPI researchers and Chicago-based businesses, provide new opportunities for university-based faculties to collaborate in leading-edge research, and expand faculty opportunities to engage with industry partners and attract venture capital.

Killeen said Chicago was chosen as the home of the institute and catalyst for the statewide innovation network because of its role as an economic engine for the Midwest and its place as a global destination that attracts talent from around the world.

The University of Chicago and Northwestern University have joined the U of I as inaugural partners in DPI, he said, and additional member institutions are anticipated.

The institute will open initially with up to 50 faculty members, and expand to as many as 90 new faculty when DPI reaches full operation.

DPI will initially serve several hundred students a year who are enrolled at the U of I and partner universities, growing to about 1,800 at full operation.

Killeen said DPI’s world-class faculty could attract up to $500 million annually in research funding.

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Event to honor poetry, life of Gwendolyn Brooks

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

The Institute for the Humanities will present “Gwendolyn Brooks: A Centenary Celebration,” a special event featuring poetry readings and discussions of the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet’s legacy.

The event takes place from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 8 in the lower level of Stevenson Hall. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize in any literary genre. She served as the Illinois Poet Laureate from 1968 to 2000 and was U.S. Poet Laureate in 1985.

Through her writing and activism, she is remembered for a distinctive perspective on the lives of black Americans, racial injustice, poverty, beauty, womanhood and more.

One hundred years after her birth, the UIC celebration of her life and work will feature presentations by CM Burroughs, Reginaid Gibbons, Ouraysh Ali Lansana, Angela Jackson and Ed Robinson.

Event co-sponsors are the UIC Institute for the Humanities, the departments of English and African American studies at UIC and The Poetry Foundation.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, call (312) 996-8352.
The University acknowledges and thanks all our UIC employees whose daily efforts shape this great campus. During Employee Recognition Month, the University of Illinois at Chicago is pleased to recognize and congratulate these outstanding employees.

Employee Recognition Award Ceremony

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 10:30AM at the UIC Forum Ceremony followed by reception.

The annual Employee Recognition Award Ceremony honors 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 recognizes UI Health’s Class Act Award, Employee of the Year, Physician of the Year, and Resident of the Year.
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 hosts the annual Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD) in conjunction with the State of Illinois’ SECA campaign. There are twelve Umbrella Federation Charities representing over 2000 organizations. For further information about the eligible charities, pledge forms, and donation instructions visit UIC Human Resources’ CCFD webpage at https://www.hr.uic.edu/paychecksinfo/charitable/.

EMPLOYEES CAN CONTRIBUTE IN TWO WAYS:

1. **Continuous payroll deduction:** Employees who contribute through continuous payroll deduction have a designated amount withdrawn from their check each pay period. Designations are ongoing and continue until the employee requests a change or forwards a cancellation request in writing.

   At any time throughout the year a UIC employee can create, adjust, or cancel their continuous payroll deduction.

2. **One-time donation:** Employees may also give a one-time donation to one or more charities of their choice by completing the One-Time Direct Gift section of the CCFD pledge form. An employee can donate as an individual or a group of employees can combine their efforts and make one larger donation.

   One Time Direct Gift checks are made payable to “Campus Chest” and should be submitted with the completed pledge form to UIC Human Resources, Special Programs/CCFD, MC 897.

**Contact Us:**
**Rebecca Fortier**
Special Events Facilitator
312-413-2960
rfortier@uillinois.edu
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.

The Janice Watkins 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.

**Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award**

Rita Berendt  
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner for the  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Department of Neurosurgery  
UI Health

Eileen M. Doran  
Assistant Dean for  
Student Affairs  
Office of Student Affairs  
College of Applied Health Sciences

Luis Duarte  
Associate Director  
LARES  
Office of the Vice Provost and  
Enrollment Services

Antoniah Lewis-Reese  
Executive Assistant to the Dean  
Office of the Dean  
School of Public Health

Gregory P. Quinn  
Executive Associate Director  
Office of Capital Planning and  
Project Management

Eloy A. Reyes  
Assistant to the Head  
Department of Math, Statistics &  
Computer Science  
College of Liberal Arts, and Sciences

**Janice Watkins Award**

Saulo I. Barrera  
Assistant Facilities Manager  
Administration  
School of Public Health

Rita Corona  
Building Services Worker  
Physical Plant Administration  
Facilities Management

Katarzyna Lesinski  
Executive Assistant to the Department Head  
Department of Biobehavioral Health Science  
College of Nursing
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.

Each year, the Employee of the Year recipient is selected by the UI Hospital and Clinics' 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 20, 2017.

UI Health 2017 Employee of the Year

The Physician and Resident of the Year awards are presented to an attending physician and a resident who each put the patient first in all encounters, consistently contribute to the delivery of world class patient care, and personify the core values of UI Health: Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence.
During UIC's Employee Recognition Month we honor our service honorees with five or more years of service, in recognition of their years of dedicated service. University employees who are eligible Civil Service employees, Academic Professional employees, and faculty eligible working at UIC are recognized.
MIDTERMS: stress and relief

By Apoorva Tummala — atummal3@uic.edu

The feeling of exhilaration that hits you when you are done with four midterms is quite unexpected.

As students, it sometimes feels like our lives revolve around college: go to class, go to work, study, sleep, repeat. So, what is this feeling, this unexpected blip in the radar of our relatively mundane lives, at least during midterms?

I believe this feeling is a release of the mental stress that we sometimes don’t know we are under. I’ve heard so many of my friends (and even myself) say that they’re going to bed as soon as the exam is over. However, I’ve noticed that rarely happens. Unless the exam goes terribly, you suddenly realize all the things that you want to do or could do now that the obligation you feel has been lifted. It’s not just intense relief, it’s a serotonin-driven sense of well-being. This feeling of freedom, of sublime happiness, will be one of the most vivid feelings we remember in the haze of nostalgia that I’m sure will overpower us when we are old and gray.

When we enter the deadline-driven world of work, I’m sure that this feeling will not leave us. I’m also sure, however, that we won’t experience it the same way. Although the stakes might be higher in the real world, they seem impossibly high when you’re a student. There is also a general companionship, accompanied by a sense of isolation, that you feel after walking home from an exam after discussing it with your friends. This universal experience of being a student is one that inspires reflection when you’re living the life of countless stories, when you’re living a life full of experiences shared by so many others.

The satisfaction of doing well when you’ve worked hard never fades — and honestly, it feels better than doing well when it’s not deserved.

Congrats on finishing midterms week, and I hope you got some ice cream when you completed your last midterm.
CALENDAR

NOV–DEC. 16
EXHIBIT

TRADUTTORE, 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
SPECIAL EVENT

REFORM IN THE PRECKWINKLE ERA
Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, Cook County commissioner. Part of the “Future of Chicago” lecture series.
Noon
140 Behavioral Sciences Building

NOV. 8
WEBINAR

SURVEY EXPERIMENTS
Free Survey Research Methods Webinar on methodologies for addressing studies on ways that experiments have been used in survey research to explore both methodological questions and substantive questions. Sponsored by the Survey Research Laboratory.
Noon
srl.uic.edu/seminars/Fall17Webinars

NOV. 10–18
THEATRE PRODUCTION

TARTUFFE
UIC Theatre production of Molière’s work, directed by professor emeritus Luigi Salerni. Tartuffe is the ultimate brazen conman. While his hypocritical greed and duplicity is glaringly obvious to most of the Pernelle family, some buy exactly what this consummate salesman is selling. The timeless charmer has kept audiences laughing for 350 years with his antics.
Nov. 10–11, 16–18: 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 12, 18: 2 p.m.
Nov. 15: 10 a.m.
UIC Theatre
theatreandmusic.uic.edu

NOV. 11
UIC CHOIR

EXAGGERATED MOTION
UIC Choirs perform the soaring vocal music of the Baroque period in their fall concert.
7:30 p.m.
Notre Dame Church
1334 W. Flournoy St.
theatreandmusic.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

NOV. 8
LECTURE

REFORM OF COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board president. Part of the “Future of Chicago” lecture series.
Noon
140 Behavioral Sciences Building

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event
Undergraduates get lesson on diet, memory

By Hoda Fakhari — hfakha2@uic.edu

How is your memory affected by the food you eat and the bacteria in your gut?

Although the connection between the gut, brain and mouth may seem a little stretched, the neurobiological links of diet and the gut microbiome to cognitive function have been the subject of research of Scott Kanoski, assistant professor of biological sciences at the University of Southern California, for the past six years.

Kanoski spoke about his research at the 10th Annual Chris Comer Undergraduate Neuroscience Symposium. The series is held in honor of former UIC professor Chris Comer’s tremendous contributions to science education, including the development of the first undergraduate neuroscience program in Illinois.

Kanoski uses rat models in highly controlled experiments to understand the biological effects and mechanisms of an unhealthy diet. The rats are subjected to dietary manipulations during juvenile and adolescent periods of growth in which the hippocampus develops.

The hippocampus is primarily responsible for the brain’s integration of memories for long-term storage. It also plays a role in inhibiting excessive food intake through the detection of internal hunger and satiety signals.

“Disrupted hippocampal-dependent memory process are linked with Western diet consumption,” Kanoski said. With the administration of both a complete Western diet and added sugar in isolation, the rats experienced hippocampal dysfunction as revealed by difficulty in tasks related to discrimination reversal learning, spatial working and reference memory.

Sugar consumption had a significant impact on the integrity of the gut microbiome, which is the aggregate of about 100 trillion microorganisms that reside in the gastrointestinal tract.

The result is a “viscous circle,” in which the consumption of an unhealthy Western diet during adolescence impacts the hippocampus and the gut microbiome to product deficits in memory and internal satiety cues later in life. The gut microbiome and hippocampus are interrelated so that changes in the former negatively contribute to hippocampal activity.

These cognitive impairments occur independent of obesity.

“Dietary factors can impact hippocampal function without producing full-blown metabolic deficits,” Kanoski said. Simple dietary intervention is not enough to reverse the deficits caused by an excessive consumption of sugar in the critical juvenile developmental stage, Kanoski added. However, research into other potential repair mechanisms, such as exercise, could provide further insight into these processes.

Magdalena Maani, a senior in biology, attended the event as part of her neuroscience course. Apart from being a requirement, however, the seminar attracts students who are interested in the latest developments in neuroscience.

“I personally did want to attend,” said Maani, “because instead of just focusing on theory from the textbook, I wanted to learn about what topics a current neuroscientist is researching about in the present.”

UI Health to host state’s first Walk from Obesity

By Hoda Fakhari — hfakha2@uic.edu

The UI Health Bariatric Surgery Program is hosting the first 5K Walk from Obesity in Illinois Nov. 12.

The event, which is organized through the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBs) Foundation, encourages participants to walk or run at their own pace as they raise awareness of the disease of obesity.

Jennifer Martin and Jenna Giannetti, both UI Health bariatric registered dietitians, have recruited surrounding hospitals, fellow dietitians, families and patients at any stage of recovery to participate in the event.

“We want to give our patients something to strive for,” said Martin, who co-organized the event with Giannetti. “Working up toward a 5K is something that we would love to see them do.”

The fundraising goal of $10,000 will support the ASMBs’s efforts in obesity research, education and access to quality treatment.

On the day of the event, free parking will be available and registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the corner of Montrose and Simonds Drive. The walk will start at 9:30 a.m. and continue alongside Montrose Beach.

To register or donate, visit the Chicago chapter of the Walk from Obesity event’s page at bit.ly/2xs7h0X
Managing risky behavior reduces future incarceration among juvenile offenders

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Clinically aggressive juvenile offenders on probation in Cook County, Illinois, who participated in a two-week intervention program focusing on reducing risky behavior were four times less likely to be incarcerated in the 12 months after the intervention than their peers who participated in an information-based health promotion program.

The findings, by UIC researchers, are published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Mounting evidence suggests that incarceration frequently exacerbates psychiatric conditions, including aggression, among youth and leads to further incarceration.

"Most juvenile offenders are released back into the community following arrest, but without new skills for coping with the environmental triggers that may have prompted behaviors leading to arrest, and they are at high risk for incarceration," said Ashley Kendall, postdoctoral fellow in the UIC School of Public Health and first author on the paper.

Kendall and her colleagues wanted to measure the efficacy of a two-week psycho-social intervention for juvenile offenders serving probation on future aggression and incarceration. They worked closely with the Cook County Department of Juvenile Probation to evaluate the efficacy of PHAT Life (Preventing HIV/AIDS among Teens), which focuses on recognizing triggers that lead to risky behavior, be it sexual or aggressive in nature, and guide youth through envisioning ways to cope with "hot" feelings that prompt risk taking.

"Most juvenile offenders are released back into the community following arrest, but without new skills for coping with the environmental triggers that may have prompted behaviors leading to arrest," says UIC researcher Ashley Kendall.

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PHAT Life was developed by Geri Donenberg, professor of medicine in the UIC College of Medicine and senior author on the paper.

The researchers compared participation in PHAT Life to an equally intensive health information program among 310 participants, ages 13 to 17 years old, residing in Cook County and on probation. In this randomized, controlled study, the average age of participants was 16 years old; about 30 percent of participants were female and 90 percent were black.

Participants were asked to complete aggression surveys before the start of the intervention programs, and again six months and 12 months after the intervention. Each time they took the surveys, they were asked to reflect back on their aggression levels over the previous six months.

Before beginning the interventions, 71 participants reported clinically significant aggression in the surveys. "This means that these participants reported levels of aggressive behavior that typically have significant negative impact on their lives," Kendall said. "These youth reported they did things like physically attack people, destroy others’ property and yell often."

The PHAT Life program focused on factors involved in risky behaviors, including unhealthy relationships, substance use, emotional regulation and peer influence. Youth identified unique people, places, situations or moods that triggered high-risk behavior and developed specific plans for addressing the triggers.

The control group participated in a program that provided information on nutrition, substance use, violence and HIV/AIDS. Participants also reviewed tips for preventing interpersonal conflicts from becoming violent.

The programs consisted of eight sessions lasting 90 to 120 minutes each over the course of two weeks. They were delivered at detention alternative programs run by the Cook County Department of Juvenile Probation called evening reporting centers, or ERCs. These centers provide after-school supervision as part of probation.

PHAT Life, the researchers found, seemed to have the most impact on reducing aggressive behavior in those who reported clinical aggression at the beginning of the intervention, compared with those who were not clinically aggressive at the start.

Among clinically aggressive participants, those enrolled in PHAT Life showed meaningful reductions in aggression over the first six months compared with participants in the control group. By 12 months after the intervention, participants in PHAT Life appeared to maintain reductions in aggressive behavior, but the control group had equally low levels.

"We think that aggression was probably elevated for most offenders at the time of arrest, so we'd expect to see everyone 'cool down' over the following year," said Kendall. "That PHAT Life exhibited improvements is likely still important, given how costly even six months of aggressive behavior can be."

Clinically aggressive participants in PHAT Life were also nearly four times less likely to report incarceration in the last six months on their 12 month post-program surveys compared with those in the control group.

"We are currently expanding the delivery of PHAT Life to youth on probation in Cook County by training probation staff and youth who were previously involved in the justice system to deliver the program to their peers," said Donenberg.

"We hope this sets to stage for a better long-term trajectory for all justice-involved youth."

Erin Emerson and William Hartmann, UIC, and Richard Zinbarg, Northwestern University, are co-authors on the paper.

The research was supported in part by a grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.
VETERANS WEEK 2017

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 4

UIC Veterans Day 3K Walk/5K Run
8:30AM | Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St.
The UIC Veterans Day 3K Walk/5K Run is to honor those who have served while creating awareness for the veteran community. Proceeds for the race will go towards programs and initiatives that support the student veteran community. Register at dos.uic.edu/vet5Krun.

Post Race Party | Outside of SCE on Halsted St.
After the 3K Walk/5K Run, registered participants may gather for a post-race party for refreshments and beer garden.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 6 - THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 9

Opening Reception - Monday November 6
12PM | Cesar Student Veterans Center, 2nd Floor Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St.
Introduction to the Veterans Week events. Light refreshments will be served.

"Things We Carried" Exhibit Opening
12PM | Cesar Student Veterans Center, 2nd Floor Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St.
Coordinated by UIC’s Student Veterans Association, the exhibit displays items carried or photos taken by student veterans during their time in service.

"Thank a Veteran"
11AM to 2PM | West Concourse, Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St.
This is an opportunity for UIC students, faculty, and staff to extend their thanks and appreciation for those who have served, by writing thoughts and/or signing a poster.

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 10

Flag Raising Ceremony sponsored by UIC’s Army ROTC
12PM | Outside Plaza, Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St.
"Thank a Veteran" Poster will be on display at this location during the ceremony. Lunch will be served following this event in the East Terrace of Student Center East.

UIC Student Veterans’ Oral Health Day
College of Dentistry
801 S. Paulina St.
College of Dentistry will provide free dental exam/cleaning to UIC Veterans. RSVP required by emailing dentalph@uic.edu before 11/5.

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 11

G.I.V.E. Event
9:45AM to 2:30PM | Jesse Brown VA, Kizer Conference Center
820 S. Damen Ave.
Student Veterans Affairs in partnership with the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center present the G.I.V.E. (Get Involved with Volunteer Experiences) Event. This is an opportunity for UIC volunteers to assist the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in hosting its Veterans Day Commemoration. Register to volunteer at go.uic.edu/novembergive.
Soccer players recognized for academic success
By Laura White — lwhite88@uic.edu

Seniors Olivia Everin and Haley Kittle and sophomore Emily Valentine earned a spot on the Horizon League Women’s Soccer All-Academic Team.

The Flames led the League with three of the 13 honorees.

Everin received her second career honor after producing a 3.95 cumulative GPA as a biological sciences major. This season as a primary starter, the Ada, Michigan, native leads the team with four assists and 36 shots.

With a 3.91 GPA as a biochemistry major, Kittle collects the Academic All-League honor for the second time in her career. The Rockford native came back after sitting out last season because of an injury to play in all but four matches this year. She has aided UIC at both ends of the field and has nine shots with four on goal.

Valentine picks up the honor in her first year eligible as she has a perfect 4.0 GPA as an economics major. A Rockford native, she is one of three to start every game this season, recording the second-most minutes (1,288) while helping the back line secure four shutouts. She ranks second in goals (3), and third in shots (24) and shots on goal (11).

To be eligible for the Horizon League All-Academic team, student-athletes must participate in a league sport, have completed a year at the member school and passed 24 semester hours at that institution before the start of their athletic season, and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a 4.00 scale.

Cross country team members make All-Academic Teams
By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

Juniors Allison Hansen and Zach Szczesniak of the UIC cross country teams have been voted to the 2017 Horizon League Cross Country All-Academic Teams.

While both student-athletes have previously been named to the Horizon League Academic Honor Roll, it is the first time that each has been chosen for the prestigious All-Academic Teams by the league’s faculty athletic representatives.

Szczesniak, a junior from La Grange Park, has a 4.0 GPA as an electrical engineering major. He is a two-time Horizon League Academic Honor Roll member. As a sophomore, he helped the Flames achieve USTFC-CCA All-Academic status in 2016-17. On the course, Szczesniak has been a key contributor for the Flames this fall. He ran a personal-best 8K time of 25:51.5 to finish second among UIC runners and 25th overall at the Illinois State Invitational Sept. 8. The third-year runner also posted a strong 5M time of 25:54.7 at one of the nation’s largest meets, the Joe Plane Notre Dame Invitational Sept. 29.

Hansen, a junior, has a 3.92 GPA as a biochemistry major. She is a two-time Horizon League Academic Honor Roll member. The Lombard native has been a leader in competition for UIC this season, as well. Hansen has been the top finisher for the Flames in four of the team’s five races this fall. She set the program record in the 4K at the Flames/Flyers Opener Sept. 2 in 15:31.2 and ran her fastest 5K of the season in 18:47 at the Joe Plane Notre Dame Invitational. She added her best 6K time in the final tune-up before the Horizon League Championship, finishing in 22:19.5 at the Bradley Pink Classic Oct. 13.