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More than 100 well-spoken students gathered at UIC recently for the first on-campus speech tournament.

In only its second year as an official student organization, the UIC Speech Team took the initiative Oct. 21 to host Chicago Swing, one of about 100 tournaments throughout the country to qualify students for the National Forensics Association Nationals.

“We love speech and we think that the messages are super important,” said Michael Martinez, president and co-founder of the team. “Part of the reason why we wanted to host a tournament here was because we wanted to bring individuals in and see a little bit about what we do.”

The tournament, which spanned two days, was organized in partnership with Northwestern University’s speech team. On the first day, students participated in a full day of rounds at UIC, then spent the second day facing the panel of judges at Northwestern.

Planning for the tournament began in the spring with the help of Vance Pierce, associate director for student organizations in the Center for Student Involvement.

“For a new student organization, hosting a tournament can be overwhelming,” Pierce said. “UIC’s team is a student-run team, so they had to plan the event while also preparing to compete.”

The planning included coordination with campus units and surrounding businesses along with recruitment of schools from three states for the competition.

Of the nine participating speech teams, three placed in the top 5 at the NFA Nationals last year. Martinez, a junior in finance and biology, believes that this kind of exposure will further establish the credibility of UIC’s new team.

“We really wanted to provide UIC some recognition on the national speech circuit,” Martinez said. “It helps build the reputation of our team when we bring these really incredible teams here to see how we operate, how we run things at a tournament, as well as just get a feel for what UIC stands for as an institution.”

The speeches given at these tournaments often challenge many political and social spheres while advocating for underrepresented communities and progressive institutional changes, added Martinez.

“We wanted to expose the UIC community to our message,” he said.

The message has reached beyond UIC.

UIC’s team has qualified for 18 events at the NFA Nationals — more events than they qualified for throughout the last academic year.

“We’re moving a lot faster as well as doing a lot better this year,” Martinez said.

After winning the New Student Organization of the Year award, the team is looking to further its impact at UIC and on the tournament circuit with better footing, more secure funding and double the number of members.

“I would say they are a model for other organizations to get focused on both long- and short-term goals,” Pierce said. “One coach shared that in her 10 years of leading her program, she has never seen a team so dedicated and willing to do the leg work for success. From phone calls to emails, the UIC team networks to create competitive connections and partnerships.”

By Hoda Fahkari — hfakha2@uic.edu

Want to contribute a story? E-mail Christy Levy at christyb@uic.edu

Recognize the accomplishments of your UIC graduate in the special commencement issue of UIC News distributed during December commencement.

A perfect way for UIC departments to honor their student workers! And a great shout-out from student organizations to their graduating members.

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Incentive program aims to curb textbook costs
Francisca Corona – fcoron3@uic.edu

A new incentive program rewards faculty who use library and openly licensed materials instead of textbooks in the classroom.

Called the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program, the initiative was created in response to the growing costs of college textbooks, a financial burden for students that has increased by at least 73 percent over the last decade, according to 2016 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Student Public Interest Research Groups.

“The costs really begin to affect students’ ability to be successful,” said Mary Case, professor, university librarian and dean of libraries.

Negative consequences associated with rising costs include students not registering for a course, taking fewer classes, dropping classes, withdrawing and even failing.

“Making free electronic [Open Educational Resource] materials readily available can help mitigate these problems,” wrote Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan Poser in an announcement about the program.

Case and Sandy DeGroote, professor and scholarly communications librarian, spearheaded the development of the incentive program after members from the Undergraduate Student Government voiced their concerns about costs of course materials at UIC.

“The Undergraduate Student Government had done a survey asking students to report how much they spend a semester on textbooks,” DeGroote said. More than 800 respondents reported spending between $200 and $1,000, with nearly 50 percent saying they spend between $300 and $600 each semester.

The University Library and the Office of the Provost believe faculty can help bring those numbers down. The library and provost’s office have earmarked a total of $20,000 in annual rewards for faculty who use open access materials, which include low-cost or free educational tools available on a variety of websites, and other resources that the library has licensed, including more than 50,000 journals and 500 e-books.

Instructors using library and other copyrighted materials in classrooms must follow the factors of fair use.

Faculty or their respective departments are eligible to receive the award, which ranges from $500 to $2,000, if they adopt or modify these materials in classes where they teach undergraduate students.

“The first tier is really asking faculty to look out there and see if there might be an open textbook that would meet their needs. They could take something that exists and just use that and incorporate it in their class,” Case said. “For [modification], there might be a text but they only want to use part of it, and they might want to create some of their own information to go with it or make some modifications to other articles and material that they find.

“They’re not necessarily writing a whole new textbook, just taking bits and pieces along with their own content to create something for a course.”

The initiative is also supported by the UIC Bookstore.

To be considered for the award, textbook adoption or modification plans must be in place for fall of 2018, and candidates must submit proposals by Dec. 18. Winners will be notified in January.

For more information, visit bit.ly/2zuJilJ.

Make an impact at UIC on Giving Tuesday
By Francisca Corona – fcoron3@uic.edu

On Nov. 28, help the UIC community move forward by giving back.

IGNITE Giving Tuesday, the university’s spin on the global holiday, will celebrate the importance of philanthropy by creating an opportunity for people to make an impact through giving.

“Giving Tuesday demonstrates the tremendous collective power of giving at UIC,” said Jeff Nearhoof, vice chancellor for advancement.

Every gift counts. In the past, funds have been raised for scholarships, campus development and more. Look for lawn signs on campus after Thanksgiving featuring Giving Tuesday facts and statistics.

This year, donations will also support a larger campaign called IGNITE, which aims to raise $750 million over five years to advance UIC.

“When the campaign is over, participants will have contributed to the impact we’ll have on our students and faculty, the new knowledge they pursue and communities they serve,” Nearhoof said. There are other ways the UIC community and friends can come together on Giving Tuesday. Be part of or follow the action by using the hashtag #IGNITEGivingTuesday on social media and sharing your UIC pride. The website givingtuesday.uic.edu will allow people to see the event’s real-time progress, too, and learn more about a department or unit that will directly benefit from donations.

The shared goal is to encourage participation.

“When our faculty, staff and students, as well as our alumni and friends, come together to support the areas of UIC that are most important to them, we can have a remarkable impact,” Nearhoof said.

Donations will be accepted online through Dec. 1. To donate, visit givingtuesday.uic.edu.

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"The Undergraduate Student Government spearheaded the development of the incentive program after members from the Undergraduate Student Government voiced their concerns about costs of course materials at UIC."

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For more information, visit bit.ly/2zuJilJ.
CAMPUS NEWS

Exhibits highlight African-influenced art

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

The UIC African American Cultural Center is hosting two exhibits this semester under the theme “Afro-Geographies.” “Polymathic” by Chicago-based artist Damon Lamar Reed and “Cavalcade of the American Negro” by Jacqueline Yvonne Smith, a UIC museum and exhibition studies alumna, are currently on display.

“Polymathic” meditates on human versatility and Reed uses diverse media — including print, mosaic, poetry and music — to create various artistic styles to help the onlooker discover themselves and their potential. Reed, a public arts artist and rapper, became the first artist in 2013 to receive the “Gem of the Community” award from Archi-treasures, an arts-based community development organization, and honored in 2016 at the Voice of the People annual gala for his commitment to excellence.

“Cavalcade of the American Negro” uses objects, images and historical narrative to explore the legacy of Chicago’s 1940 American Negro Exposition. The exposition in the Chicago Coliseum marked 75 years of African-American freedom from slavery. The exposition featured accomplishments of black Americans to public audiences.

Smith, who received her master of arts degree from the College of Architecture, Design and the Arts in 2015, first curated the exhibit at the center in Spring 2015. Smith, an emerging art history expert whose research focuses on the black arts movement, has worked on a number of projects for UIC special collections.

The exhibits and program admissions are free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in Addams Hall.

For more information, call 312-996-9549.

Website features Lake Michigan stories, activism

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

How well do you understand your water supply and your relationship to water?

Freshwater Stories, a website produced by the UIC Freshwater Lab, is designed to be an educational and creative hub for learning about Lake Michigan and the challenges facing it and the Great Lakes water system.

The storytelling site, which is supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, will feature a dozen sections, ranging from drinking water and fossil fuels to environmental justice and recreation. It will also include an activity guide, teaching kit and videos.

An event to celebrate the website’s launch will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. today at the Institute for the Humanities at UIC, lower level of Stevenson Hall.

The launch features a talk by Dan Egan, a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and Great Lakes reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The website is available at freshwaterstories.com.

Inspired by a digital storytelling panel discussion during the lab’s summit in May, Rachel Havrelock, Freshwater Lab founder and UIC associate professor of English, traveled around Lake Michigan this summer and met with community members in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan to collect their stories and understand their water-related issues.

The goal of telling these stories is to educate the public, but also serve as a call for people to get involved, said Havrelock.

“It will provide pathways for people to claim their water, engage with its management, participate in its governance and make sure that this unbelievable gift of freshwater can maximize and enrich the lives of people that live here,” she said. “The storytelling hopefully brings people to the actions that are comfortable for them and are also recommended by grassroots organizations, companies, and the academic sector.”

In addition to Havrelock, story contributors include Dan Sloboda of Patagonia, Burton Warrington of the Menominee Tribe, Ken Freestone of Green Michigan, along with several researchers, graduate students, and community organization leaders.

The site’s “Source-Path-People” activities are part of a citizen-science and humanities project where users learn about water quality and its social impacts. After researching answers to the questions in the activity guide, participants will be able to enter their results on the site.

“There are basic questions that can help people understand where their water is coming from, what the risks are, how it’s getting to them, and who is best — and least — served by our current water delivery systems,” Havrelock said. “The responses we get will be part of data visualization so that people can see how many people are concerned about pollution, privatization, or other issues.”

The kit for teaching Great Lakes issues from a humanities perspective in university classrooms will include materials produced by researchers from UIC, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and University of Toronto.

Egan, an award-winning author, will present “What Lurks in the Great Lakes? Pipelines, Invasive Species and Other Underwater Perils.” The talk is inspired by his critically-acclaimed 2017 book, The Death and Life of the Great Lakes, which examines the biological pollution and complex challenges facing the region’s most important water source.

Learn more about the Freshwater Lab at freshwaterlab.org
South Campus classrooms
Retail site transformed into learning spaces

By Farooq Chaudhry — mchaud23@uic.edu

On the southwest corner of Roosevelt and Halsted, a space formerly occupied by a bookstore is now the site of the Thomas Beckham Hall classrooms. The Thomas Beckham Hall Project has converted about 17,000 square feet of retail space into general use classrooms to accommodate UIC’s growing population.

The result: five 32-seat and two 78-seat classrooms, each equipped with whiteboards, ceiling panels to enhance acoustic functionality, and projectors. The building also features oasis spaces with about 80 seats; an ACCC C-Stop with a help desk, printing and recharging capabilities; and offices for UIC Global/Shorelight Education staff.

The new spaces were designed with student needs in mind, said David Taeyaerts, campus architect.

“All the classrooms are designed to support active learning, which is shown to improve outcomes, and is reflective of pedagogies where students are discussing amongst themselves,” said Taeyaerts, associate vice chancellor for campus learning environments. “So, it’s student-to-student work, and the instructor is more of a coach or facilitator.”

This new style of active learning is where the whiteboards come in.

“Having more space and writing surface helps the student become more actively engaged in the learning process,” Taeyaerts said.

David Hofman is one professor who is excited about the potential of the new learning spaces.

“In our Physics 100 class, we are really excited to be able to use rooms like this because the whole purpose of the class is to help students get really engaged into physics,” said Hofman, head of the physics department. “The classroom style is a perfect fit.”

Hofman said the classroom layout seats students closer to the front of the room, which makes collaboration easier.

“Lots of research is being done showing improvements to student success and student understanding that can come from these environments,” he said. “I think it’s really going to be a transforming experience for many students. I’m really excited about the future, and this is one example of where the university is heading, and it’s a really good place to be heading.”

Beyond the classrooms, the oases offer students dynamic seating options to fit all of their needs, whether it’s working independently, collaborating with other students, or just hanging out between classes.

The space is closer to student residence halls, stores and restaurants on South Campus.

“It’s a win-win,” Taeyaerts said.
Using technology to help epilepsy patients

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Epilepsy, a seizure disorder, affects more than 2 million people in the United States, making it the fourth most common neurological condition in the nation, according to the Epilepsy Foundation.

Still, the general public doesn’t know much about the chronic condition. College of Medicine faculty member Dilip Pandey said lack of information isn’t to blame.

“There are volumes of information,” said Pandey, associate professor of neurology and rehabilitation.

Two large roadblocks remain for people with epilepsy, especially those who are part of underserved or disadvantaged populations: lack of accessibility and information overload.

Pandey and collaborators are helping patients overcome those barriers with a customized, self-management education program called PAUSE (Personalized Internet-Assisted Underserved Self-management of Epilepsy) to Learn Your Epilepsy.

The program has four crucial components — baseline and follow-up questionnaires, a tablet with a mobile application and real-time web conferencing — which researchers hope will improve patients’ symptom management to keep them healthy and reduce emergency room visits.

To begin the process, patients are asked to set goals and list ways that they could improve their symptom management for the first 10 to 12 weeks with their tablets, then for three months, six months and a year after.

“We’re reporting, ‘What are their goals for this? What do [patients] want to get out of this?’” said Marie Chesaniuk, a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology and research assistant. “We ask them so it’s more about what they want or at least acknowledging their needs.”

Since most patients report not knowing how to achieve those goals, Pandey said, PAUSE collaborators, patients and their health care team — composed of health care providers and case managers — work together to identify them. Then, the providers choose which education sessions to include on tablets. Patients have access to needs-based self-management resources, gathered from the Epilepsy Foundation’s website, to review at their own pace for up to three months.

Learning modules, a seizure diary and other features are available for patients to use on the app, thanks to work done by engineering students and recent alumnus Himanshu Anand, who received his master’s in computer science from UIC in May.

“We strove to make the tablet application engaging for the user,” said Anand, who has experience in Android development. “I tried to incorporate the latest Android features, I looked at other health care applications, and then I brainstormed ideas with everyone.”

After conducting one-on-one video calls with patients, Nadia Nabulsi, who received her master’s in May from the School of Public Health, shared recommendations for improvements with the team. Feedback from patients inspired Anand and Nabulsi to create a progress bar.

“A lot of people would say, ‘I don’t remember where I left off,’ so we talked about ways that we could make that work,” she said.

Nabulsi’s responsibilities also included tracking the implied challenges and impacts of epilepsy on patient’s lives by categorizing negative and positive comments made by patients during calls. Chesaniuk’s research assesses whether setting and meeting clear, actionable self-management goals improve patients’ quality of life.

“Analyzing the follow-up data will be our next step,” said Katharine Ozenberger, a doctoral student in the College of Pharmacy. Ozenberger, who is completing a pharmacoepidemiology certification program at UIC, has created a database to organize and gather information for over 100 patients; more than 50 percent are from the UI Health neurology specialty clinic.

By 2019, researchers hope to recruit 200 patients for the study — 100 will come from the UIC clinic and another 100 will be enrolled from the community through the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, a project collaborator. The PAUSE study is also part of the Managing Epilepsy Well Network, a national network of scientists and community partners.

Jeffrey Loeb, the John S. Garvin Endowed Chair in Neurology at UIC, is a co-principal investigator on the PAUSE study. Associate professor Yevgenya Kaydanova, an epileptologist, and assistant professor Woonjin Song, a neuropsychologist, from the UIC College of Medicine are co-investigators. Inseya Lakhan, an undergraduate student in neuroscience, is also part of the project.

Researcher Dilip Pandey and collaborators are helping break barriers for patients who have epilepsy. (Photo: Jenny Fontaine)
Health equity research center established at UIC

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

UIC has received $6.75 million from the National Institutes of Health to establish a specialized Center of Excellence in minority health and health disparities research.

Called the Center for Health Equity Research, or CHER, the new UIC center will investigate how various social structures and determinants contribute to the health of marginalized groups.

"The reality is that the vast majority of preventable disease in the U.S. happens in a small group of minority communities and it’s not always because of biology alone," said Robert Winn, associate vice chancellor for community-based practice at UIC and director of the University of Illinois Cancer Center.

"It’s also because these groups are socially disadvantaged due to geography, poverty or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation," said Winn, the corresponding principal investigator on the grant.

A growing body of scientific evidence strongly suggests that social determinants such as poverty, living in a food desert, lacking safe spaces to play and exercise, discrimination or growing up with neighborhood violence can contribute to the development of preventable diseases and conditions including cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and substance abuse.

CHER will initially focus on three research projects that address health and structural violence — a term that describes the multiple characteristics of social, economic and political systems that expose vulnerable communities to physical, socioeconomic, behavioral or psychosocial risks leading to increased morbidity and mortality.

Lisa Tussing-Humphreys, assistant professor of medicine in the UIC College of Medicine and fellow of the Institute for Health Research and Policy, and colleagues will study how colorectal cancer risk in the black community correlates to experiences of racism.

Kristine Molina, assistant professor of psychology in the UIC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will lead a study on the relationship between stress due to racial discrimination and cardiovascular disease outcomes in Latino families.

Karen Kim, a CHER partner from the University of Chicago's department of medicine, will examine the factors associated with mental health disparities among Asian immigrant populations.

"The end-goal is to get to a point where my health and your health is not determined by the color of our skin, where we live, or who we live with," said Jesus Ramirez-Valles, professor and director of community health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health.

Additional studies and programs that encourage minority health and reduce health disparities are already in the center’s pipeline. Ramirez-Valles, who will lead the administrative core of the new center, says that Chicago’s highly segregated, urban environment provides a rich foundation for studying structural violence and public health, and that UIC’s “ability to bring together multidisciplinary researchers from diverse racial, ethnic and social backgrounds” gives strength to the center.

According to Martha Daviglus, associate vice chancellor for research at UIC, a second goal of the CHER is to invest in the career development of minority researchers and support the participation of underrepresented communities in public health activities.

"We want to make it easier for researchers from diverse backgrounds to seek support and mentorship, so that underrepresented groups are not just more likely to participate in research, but are also more likely to initiate research and drive it forward," said Daviglus, who will oversee the new center’s training and research project core.

Seven UIC entities will collaborate on the center’s work: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Public Health, UI Cancer Center, Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships, and Institute for Minority Health Research.

UIC is one of 12 centers nationwide and the only in the Midwest to be funded by the NIH’s National Institute Health and Health Disparities’ Center of Excellence program. The centers will share approximately $82 million over five years.

"We need strong collaborations and research based upon asking the right questions in specific areas. The Centers of Excellence are poised to emphasize scientific inquiry that will promote health equity," said NIMHD Director Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable in a statement.

Daviglus, Ramirez-Valles and Winn, who are all from underrepresented minority backgrounds, jointly lead the Center for Health Equity Research.
CAALENDAR

NOV. 10–18
THEATRE PRODUCTION

TARTUFFE
UIC Theatre production of Molière’s work, directed by professor emeritus Luigi Salerno. 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. 16–18: 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 18: 2 p.m.
Nov. 15: 10 a.m.
UIC Theatre
theatreandmusic.uic.edu

NOV. 15
SPECIAL EVENT

TASTE OF UIC
UIC student organizations cook and bake food. Entry is free, tickets are purchased at the door.

11 a.m.–2 p.m.
East Terrace, Student Center East

NOV. 15
SPECIAL EVENT

UIC CENTER FOR
GLOBAL HEALTH
FRIENDRAISER
Hosted by Rhoda and Jerome Frankel, the event benefits the Center for Global Health. Evening of food and music with Jon Langford.

5–8 p.m.
College of Medicine Faculty Alumni Lounge
1819 W. Polk St.
Tickets, $30
bit.ly/2xs7h0X

NOV. 17
PERFORMANCE

UIC PERCUSSION
ENSEMBLE
CONCERT
Concert explores the use of space. The program will feature works by Ivan Trevino, David Gillingham and Russell Peck.

7:30 p.m.
Rehearsal Hall L060
Education, Theatre, Music and Social Work building

NOV. 18
EVENT

LIBRARY
CAREER EXPLORATION
DAY
Combine your passion for learning and desire to help others and become a librarian.

9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Daley Library, Room 1-470

NOV. 21
PERFORMANCE

STUDENT CHAMBER
MUSIC PERFORMANCE
UIC music majors will show off their small-ensemble skills in quartets and quintets of various instrument groupings.

7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall L285
Education, Theatre, Music and Social Work building

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

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event

MORE CAMPUS EVENTS AT today.uic.edu

NOV. 15
LECTURE

WHAT LURKS IN THE GREAT LAKES:
PIPELINES, INVASIVE SPECIES AND
OTHER UNDERWATER PERILS
Lecture by Dan Egan, author of The Death and Life of the Great Lakes, and reporter at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

4–6 p.m.
Institute for the Humanities
Lower level, Stevenson Hall

NOV. 15
LECTURE

MAYOR 1%: RAHM EMANUEL AND THE RISE OF CHICAGO’S 99%
Kari Lydersen, journalist and author. Part of the “Future of Chicago” lecture series.

Noon
140 Behavioral Sciences Building
COOKBOOK
RECIPE CONTEST

Submit a tasty, original, healthy, and easy-to-make recipe!
For contest details, visit go.uic.edu/recipe-contest.

CONTEST ENDS
11.17.17

WINNERS WILL:
• Have their recipe and name published in the UIC Cookbook
• Win $5.00 in Dragon Dollar$ (for winning recipes submitted by registered UIC students)

Winning recipes will go into a cookbook to be given to Pantry participants and used to generate funding for UIC Pop-Up Pantry food purchases. The Pantry is a free resource for UIC students experiencing food insecurity. Contest open to UIC students, faculty, staff, and alumni only.
UIC supports transition event for youth with special needs

The transition to adulthood can be a challenging time for teenagers and their family members, especially when the youth has special health care needs. The Illinois Statewide Transition Conference provides adolescents and their families valuable information about how to prepare for upcoming changes, navigate the maze of resources and develop important skills for success.


Participants were invited to discuss the possibilities for students who have disabilities in the areas of independent living, education and training, employment, community integration, health care and self-advocacy. Participants learned how to plan for the future and options for life after high school, how to sort through the maze of resources and what skills are important to develop to prepare for adulthood.

UIC’s Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC), a statewide care coordination program for children with special needs, served on the steering committee for this year’s conference and covered the conference-related expenses for 20 families enrolled in the program.

Part of DSCC’s mission is to connect adolescents with special health care needs and their families to resources that prepare them for the transition to adulthood and the delivery of adult services.

Saurabh and Mukta Agarwal attended with their teenaged daughter, Radhika, who currently is enrolled with DSCC.

“A lot of times families (like ours) don’t know the options,” Saurabh said of planning for the future with a medically complex child.

Saurabh said he was touched by keynote speaker Matt Cohen, who spoke about his experiences with his son and how he learned to determine transition priorities for students and ensure their real-life needs are met. Saurabh and Mukta also appreciated the opportunity to make connections with other families and professionals.

“All of the information was very helpful, and now we have to do our homework,” Saurabh said.

For more information, visit dscc.uic.edu.

Albert Schorsch III
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Albert Schorsch III was a Renaissance man, says Michael Pagano, dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

“Al could bring manifold lenses to the most simple and mundane of life’s experiences, as well as to the most complex. Mozart and Drucker, Kant and St. Augustine,” Pagano said. “Al was fluent in the affairs of the world, ancient and modern.”

Schorsch, former associate dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, died Oct. 28 in Chicago after a lengthy illness. He was 66.

Schorsch held a variety of positions during his career, from constructional laborer and mental health counselor to singer/songwriter and choir director.

He received psychology degrees from Loyola University, and later took professional education courses at MIT’s Center for Real Estate, Harvard’s Institutes for Higher Education, Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, and Business Innovation Services of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He received his doctorate in public policy analysis at UIC in 1992, and he returned to campus in 1994 to work at the UICCenter Urban Economic Development on the UIC Neighborhoods and NonProfits Network project, which connected 50 organizations in Pilsen and the Near West Side to the university’s computer resources and to a network of training and data.

Schorsch joined the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs Dean’s office in 1996. He was acting dean from 1999 to 2000, then associate dean until his retirement in June 2015. From 2004 to 2007, he also was interim director of the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Lab, which he helped found in 1997.

In a letter to colleagues at the time of his retirement, Schorsch wrote, “My career has been a bit like the character Bert in the Disney film ‘Mary Poppins.’ I appear one day as a one-man band, and the next as a chimney sweep. My job has been to bring out the magic in others.”

After retiring, Schorsch began service in campus ministry as director of the Integritas Institute for Ethics of the St. John Paul II Catholic Newman Center and its School of Catholic Thought on the UIC campus.

“Even after officially leaving the university, Al continued to be a guide for all of us and that is something that will never end,” Pagano said. “Al was like no other. We will deeply miss him.”

Survivors include his wife, Betsy; his children, Rebecca (Steve Kruse), Tom (Sarah), Michael (Violet), Albert J. IV and Elizabeth (Adam) Galvez; and five grandchildren.

Services have been held.
Pharmacist honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

By Sam Hostettler — samhos@uic.edu

There’s a little bit of Nick Popovich in pharmacies throughout the country.

Student pharmacists have relied on Popovich’s guidance and wisdom for more than 44 years to help them prepare for a successful career upon receiving their doctorate of pharmacy degree. When a scenario arises that may confound new pharmacists, the phrase, “What would Nick Popovich do?” may enter their mind.

“I want to do anything I can to help our students develop their skills,” said Popovich, who was recently awarded the first AACP Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. “When our students leave UIC, we want them to have a pretty good idea of what they want to do.”

As associate dean for professional development, as well as a tenured professor, Popovich conducts workshops for fourth-year students to assist them with tips for job interviews and leadership skills. But the young people, he said, are more than simply students.

“We’re colleagues,” Popovich said. “I tell the students, ‘It’s not you versus us, it’s we. We’re here to help you.’ I pride myself on finding ways to help students learn.”

Growing up on Chicago’s South Side, Popovich was interested in the health sciences and believed one day he would become a doctor. But when he was a high school senior, his mother encouraged him to attend a career fair at a local Walgreen’s. After he heard from two pharmacists about the pharmacy profession, his mother suggested he consider the field as a career.

Always an avid learner with varied interests, Popovich took courses in several different fields, from science to business, while an undergraduate student at UIC. He enrolled in a business law class his senior year and was so intrigued that he felt law could be in his future. But he loved pharmacy, and when a mentor in the pharmacy department said he would make a good teacher, Popovich knew that pharmaceutical education was his calling.

Following his graduation from the UIC College of Pharmacy in 1973, Popovich began his career at the University of Kansas. He was then recruited to Purdue University, where he spent the next 28 years of his career.

In 1991, Popovich’s colleagues in the pharmaceutical field thought so highly of him they elected him president of the American Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy, a group whose mission is to advance pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice and service, in partnership with members and stakeholders, to improve health for all. The statement could have been written with Popovich in mind, said Robert McCarthy, professor and dean emeritus of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy.

“Seldom in my career have I seen an individual more committed to the growth and development of his students,” McCarthy wrote in his nomination letter to AACP. “Nick is the consummate servant-leader.”

In 2002, Popovich returned to UIC as a professor.

“Students always come first,” Popovich said. “To me they are the most important people on campus. I want to treat them like they will treat their patients one day.”

Popovich has more than 137 peer-reviewed publications, 28 book chapters and has been section editor of three pharmacy textbooks. The contributions led to his peers awarding him five Rufus A. Lyman Awards, given to individuals who have published outstanding research articles in the AJPE.

Popovich has also received the AACP’s Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Educator Award; five Professor Robert Heine undergraduate teaching awards at the Purdue School of Pharmacy; two Amoco Awards for teaching excellence presented university-wide at Purdue; and was inducted as a Founding Fellow in the Teaching Academy in 1997. He was also presented with the Golden Apple Award by the 2014 graduating class of the UIC College of Pharmacy.

When he first learned he was selected as the first recipient of the AACP Lifetime Achievement Award, the only word that came to Popovich was “humbling.”
Flames win Horizon League championship

By Tim Hurley — thurley@uic.edu

UIC claimed its second consecutive Horizon League tournament championship Saturday with a 2-0 win over Green Bay at Flames Field.

Joel Leon was named tournament MVP. Markell Sadder scored his second goal of the tournament at the 77th minute to give UIC a 1-0 lead. Max Todd sent a free kick into the net in the next two minutes to double the lead and send the Flames to the NCAA tournament.

The Flames move to 11-5-3 on the season, unbeaten in their last 12 games (10-0-2). Green Bay closes its season at 9-5-3. UIC gave the Phoenix their only two losses in Horizon League regular season and tournament play.

Green Bay held possession early, but the Flames countered. Todd had the first quality shot of the match, dancing into the box and sending a low shot toward the net, forcing Nikola Kahvedzic to make a diving save.

Green Bay's best scoring opportunity of the first half came in the 25th minute. Brian Vang got behind the defense and sent in a solid shot, which Sawyer Jackman blocked.

The Flames' back line got in front of a couple of Green Bay shots later in the half. Jesus Perez made a good run from midfield to the top of the box and put a sharp shot on net, resulting in another save. Abel Guzman worked himself free outside the right post and sent a shot in that Kahvedzic saved but kept in play. Markell Sadder got the rebound and shot it into the empty net.

The Phoenix were shown a yellow card, giving UIC a free kick near midfield. Immediately on the restart, a foul was called on Green Bay. Todd took the free kick from 20 yards out to make it 2-0.

Todd and Guzman had another good look in the final five minutes as Green Bay intensified their attack, but the Flames turned away their desperate advances.

Along with tournament MVP Leon, Perez, Sadder and Todd were named to the All-Tournament team.

Todd took a team-high five shots, with three on goal. He also earned the Flames' lone yellow card in the 80th minute.

Jackman made 11 saves in the tournament, allowing just one goal. He has shutouts in four of his last five matches.

Women’s basketball wins opener

By Tim Hurley — thurley@uic.edu

The Flames (1-0) bounced back from a slow first half to outscore Bethel (1-3), 24-7, in the third quarter en route to a 66-46 win in the season opener Friday at UIC Pavilion.

Taylor Toney had a game-high 22 points. Gabryelle Johnson had 11 rebounds. Teodora Zagorac scored the first six points of the second half as UIC rallied from a one-point deficit.

The Flames will return to action at 4 p.m. Thursday when they host Jackson State.

Both teams started the game shooting cold. Abreanna Lake provided a spark off the bench, making a three-pointer and assisting on two Toney baskets as the Flames turned a one-point deficit into a six-point lead.

Freshman Tia Tedford ignited the offense in the second quarter. She picked a Pilot's pocket and used a nice pass fake to create an open layup. Later, she found open space inside the arc for a pullup jumper.

Zagorac scored six points early in the third quarter. Catera Etheridge added a three-pointer, and Tylah Lampley's layup capped a 13-2 run that put the Flames up by 10.

UIC led by as many as 20 before the Pilots went on an 8-2 run midway through the fourth quarter. Toney stopped the spurt with a layup.

Lampley and Deja Anderson-Fitzell clamped down on Bethel’s late-game efforts, altering shots and disrupting passing lanes as the Flames built the lead back up to the final margin of 20.

FLAMES @ HOME

Thursday, November 16
Women's basketball vs. Jackson State
4 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

Men's basketball vs. Delaware State
7 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

Saturday, November 18
Men’s basketball vs. Fort Wayne
3 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

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