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Hospital names new chief executive officer

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Michael Zenn, chief financial officer of the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, will become its new chief executive officer effective February 1, pending approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Zenn has served in various positions in hospital operational and financial management for more than 30 years. He has been chief financial officer of UI Hospital and Clinics since 2015.

“The University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics is a $1 billion enterprise,” said Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs. “It is crucial that we hire a leader who understands our diverse missions and is committed to the hospital’s continued financial success.”

“I am confident in Mr. Zenn’s ability to lead the hospital and clinics with his proven skills as our chief financial officer in directing the hospital’s financial performance,” Barish said. “He has led efforts to significantly improve our revenue process, restructure our capital planning process, develop our five-year capital plan, and has sponsored our very critical Integrated Information Infrastructure project to select and implement a new information technology platform.”

“In my role as chief financial officer, I have been able to develop a unique perspective into the needs of the hospital,” Zenn said. “I have also watched our former chief executive officer, Avijit Ghosh, work to instill an atmosphere of collaboration between the hospital and the other UIC health sciences colleges, which I intend to continue to nourish.”

“There are several very exciting projects underway at UI Hospital, including the implementation of a new electronic medical records and IT platform that will enable us to not only improve the way we deliver care, but change the way we handle and use information, achieve better outcomes for our patients, and hone our ability to identify new opportunities for engaging with the community to meet their unique health care needs. I’m very much looking forward to this next chapter at the hospital in my new role as chief executive officer.”

Prior to joining the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics, Zenn served as an engagement partner at Tatum, LLC in Chicago — a national professional services firm in the health care industry. Zenn has additionally served in various roles in the executive administration teams of Northwest Community Healthcare and Hospital in Arlington Heights and of Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan.

Study ranks UIC top in the state for ‘Return-on-Investment’

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

UIC is the top four-year, post-secondary institution in the state when it comes to helping students from traditionally underserved populations succeed, according to a study by the Illinois Education Research Council.

The study, “Cornerstones of Student Success: Institutions Yielding High Return on Investment for Underserved Students,” analyzed 55 four-year colleges or universities in Illinois, including private nonprofit and private for-profit schools.

The study focused on highlighting schools that fostered degree completion and job success with less debt for under-represented minority students, first-generation students and low-income students, according to the study’s authors, Janet K. Holt and Daniel Q. Duffy.

The study found that “the University of Illinois at Chicago scored much higher on the overall component than any other institution,” according to the authors of the report.

“This report further emphasizes our continued commitment to helping students from traditionally underserved backgrounds have the opportunity to receive a stellar education,” said UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis.

Among its findings, the study ranked the following in order behind UIC: Illinois Institute of Technology, Elmhurst College, Saint Xavier University, Eastern Illinois University, DePaul University and Western Illinois University.

A study by the Illinois Education Research Council found that UIC leads the state when it came to catering to students from underserved communities.

Among the highlights, UIC had the largest “Return-on-Investment” when compared with the seven schools when it came to degree completion, graduation and the cost of education for traditionally underserved groups.

While UIC scored much higher than the other schools, UIC also had the highest percentage of students in need of financial assistance through Pell Grants, with about 50 percent requiring the aid.

UIC tied with Saint Xavier University for the highest percentage of Hispanic students and second highest for the number of first-generation students among the top seven schools.

UIC had the lowest net price tuition of the seven schools for families with incomes between $0 and $30,000, and the lowest net price for families who make between $30,000 and $48,000. According to the authors, the low prices translate to the lowest median debt for graduates in the top seven schools at $18,750.

“In addition to low debt, UIC graduates reported the second-highest earnings in the top seven at $51,100, which was $9,000 higher than the average earning for all 55 institutions,” according to the study.

The study also found that schools with the highest proportion of students in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, had greater graduation rates and higher earnings after college.

When it came to STEM-related degrees completed, UIC issued the second-highest level of STEM related degrees at 30 percent, behind IIT with 89 percent.
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ERIC DYSON

January 18, 2018
5:30PM
UIC Forum

MLK Jr. Day of Service
January 15, 2018

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Energy grant to advance combined heat, power systems in the Midwest

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

UIC has received a five-year, $4.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help industrial, commercial, institutional and utility entities evaluate and install highly efficient combined heat and power (CHP) technologies. CHP, also known as cogeneration, is a single system that produces both thermal energy and electricity. CHP has typical operating efficiencies of 65 percent to 75 percent or greater compared with more conventional and separate systems for electricity and heat, which operate at approximately 50 percent efficiency. CHP can run on conventional fuels, such as natural gas, or renewable energy sources, such as synthetic gas and biofuels.

The technology has been around for decades. In fact, Thomas Edison’s Pearl Street Station, the world’s first commercial power plant that began operating in 1882, was technically CHP — it produced both electricity and thermal energy while using the recovered heat to warm neighboring buildings.

UIC’s Energy Resources Center has been funded by the Department of Energy since 2001 to help promote CHP technologies and concepts and to assist companies and institutions in the Midwest to evaluate CHP opportunities. With this new award, UIC will manage one of the eight U.S. Department of Energy’s regional Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships (CHP TAPs) — the Midwest CHP TAP. It will support the Midwest region, covering Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin.

“Our group essentially does three things as a CHP TAP,” said Cliff Haefke, director of the UIC College of Engineering’s Energy Resources Center. “We conduct market opportunity analyses identifying which markets in our region make sense for CHP, we provide education and outreach to various stakeholders on the concepts, technologies, and benefits of CHP, and finally, we provide technical assistance to organizations that are looking to evaluate CHP at their own facility.”

Some of the institutions the Energy Resources Center’s CHP TAP group has assisted include Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont; Glenbard Wastewater Authority in Glen Ellyn, and Gundersen Health System in Onalaska and LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Another directive of the CHP TAPs is to boost the resilience of local power grids that can be vulnerable to damage by natural disasters.

UIC News Staff

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Office of Public and Government Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S. Morgan St., 1320 UH (MC 288)
Chicago, IL 60607-7113
Editorial: (312) 996-0662
Advertising: (312) 996-3456
Fax: (312) 996-3754
Associate Editor
Christy Levy — clevy@uic.edu
Senior Executive Director, Public Affairs
Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez — smcginn@uic.edu
Editorial Writer
Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu
Visual Communication & Design
Anna Dvorzeczk | adworz1@uic.edu
Associate Graphic Designer
Megan Strand — mstran2@uic.edu
Editorial Associate
Carley Mostar — cmostar@uic.edu
Farooq Chaudhry — mchaud23@uic.edu
Editorial Intern
Jessica Larocque — jlaroc4@uic.edu
Photography
Jenny Fontaine — jloerzel@uic.edu

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Office of International Services
Student Services Building, 1200 West Harrison, Suite 2160
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THE EDUCATION I got at UIC was much more applicable to my real-life career...there have been principles in my classes that I have applied almost everywhere in my life.”

Barry Kahan studied biology, chemistry and political science and went on to complete a law degree at Northwestern University. He’s been a practicing attorney ever since. In earlier years, he represented construction managers and downtown real estate developers, and helped companies that led condominium conversions and other entrepreneurial efforts. Barry Kahan has also been chairman of the Chicago Bar Association Landlord-Tenant Relations Committee. Currently, he is a sole practitioner.

“It was a very rigorous educational experience,” he said.

In the fall of 1965, Holly Kahan became the first homecoming queen of the Chicago campus. “I was her [campaign] manager,” Barry Kahan said, “and I was promoting her. We organized a campaign for Holly to reach out to others and get comfortable in large groups because she was, at that time, she was very quiet, so this was my effort to have her open herself up to the rest of the world.”

“He obviously was very successful in that,” Holly Kahan laughed.

Dec. 16 was the couple’s long-awaited celebration of those memories and their time together.

“It was just a magnificent experience,” said Holly Kahan, adding that two of their three children and five of seven grandchildren attended. The Golden Graduates received commemorative medals.

After meeting students and university leaders, the Kahans feel a stronger connection to the UIC community.

“I found it extraordinary that there were so many people from so many backgrounds still doing what we did, which was being the first — at least in my family — graduating from college and coming from immigrant backgrounds, where their parents had worked hard to both get them to the United States and support them in having an education,” said Barry Kahan. “That, for me, was overwhelming.”
CONGRATS, GRADS!

More than 1,450 graduate students and 1,500 undergraduate students celebrated the culmination of their studies Dec. 16 during commencement ceremonies at the UIC Pavilion.

Illinois Medical District leader Dr. Suzet McKinney spoke to graduate students, and Obama Foundation CEO David Simas addressed undergraduates receiving degrees in Architecture, Design, and the Arts; Business Administration; Education; Engineering; Liberal Arts and Sciences; Nursing; and Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

(Photos: UIC Creative and Digital Services)
JAN. 18 SPECIAL EVENT

MLK PEACE CEREMONY
Keynote speaker Michael Eric Dyson, American Book Award recipient and two-time NAACP Image Award winner. 5:30 p.m. / UIC Forum

JAN. 18–19 SPECIAL EVENT

A New Year Means New Opportunities to GET INVOLVED.

WINTER INVOLVEMENT FAIR
Visit with representatives from more than 100 student organizations and campus departments. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Illinois Room, Student Center East

JAN. 19–MARCH 3 EXHIBIT

FÉLIX CANDELA’S CONCRETE SHELLS: AN ENGINEERED ARCHITECTURE FOR MÉXICO AND CHICAGO
Gallery 400 exhibit curated by Alexander Eisenschmidt, associate professor of architecture. Originated by Juan Ignacio del Cueto with contributions by Lorelei Stewart, the exhibit highlights the work of Félix Candela, one of the most prolific architects of the 20th century. gallery400.uic.edu

JAN. 20 SPECIAL EVENT

UIC WINTERFEST
Sponsored by the UIC Student Activities Board. Event features free ice skating, games and hot chocolate. 5–7 p.m. Maggie Daley Ice Skating Ribbon 337 E. Randolph St.

JAN. 24 CONCERT

FREE JAZZ CONCERT
Victor Garcia Quartet will perform. Garcia, who is on the UIC music faculty, is a renowned trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist and founding member of the Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Room L285, Education, Theatre, Music, and Social Work Building

JAN. 31 SPECIAL EVENT

SPRING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPO
Learn about volunteer and internship opportunities with Chicago-area nonprofits. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. East terrace, Student Center East
Join the 3 for 30 Wellness Challenge!

February 4th–April 28th
Presented by
Campus Recreation & KILTER Rewards

Check in 3× per week for 4, 8 or 12 weeks and be entered to win some awesome prizes, such as a free massage, personal training sessions, and more!

How to Register
1. Scan the QR code here or visit, tinyurl.com/3for30wellness
2. Download and register for the Kilter Rewards app and start accumulating points towards wellness.
Thursday, January 18th  
4:00–6:00 pm  
Student Recreation Facility (SRF)  

Experience all UIC Campus Recreation has to offer at Rec LIVE! Learn more about our programs and services at our annual Open House. Plus, you’ll be automatically entered to win a 3-Month Membership just for attending (for faculty/staff only)! Stop by to try a fitness class, get a chair massage, take our fitness challenge, try out our climbing wall, meet our Sport Clubs, enjoy FREE promotions from local vendors, and more.  
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Men’s basketball faces tough competition

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

The Flames (8-11, 3-3 Horizon League) could not sustain their hot-shooting first half Monday night, and saw their three-game winning streak come to an end at the hands of Oakland (12-8, 4-3 HL), 78-68 at the UIC Pavilion.

UIC made four of its first eight shots; however, the visitors converted six of their first eight to take a 15-11 lead in the first five minutes. Jalen Hayes scored six of Oakland’s first 11 points.

Consecutive baskets by Marcus Ottey gave UIC a one point lead. Then the Flames went scoreless for over three minutes as Oakland made five of seven shots to regain a four-point advantage. Godwin Boahen ended that spurt with a short jumper and a three to put the Flames back on top.

Neither team led by more than five points in the first half, thanks to efficient marksmanship on both ends. The Flames made 52 percent of their first-half field goals, while Oakland made 54.5 percent.

Oakland held a four-point lead after 20 minutes.

The Golden Grizzlies were the more efficient team in the second half. Though they made just nine field goals, they shot at a 41 percent clip and made five three pointers.

The visitors shot over 40 percent from distance on the evening, and held UIC to 35 percent from the floor in the second half.

The Flames were 2-for-9 over the first six minutes after the break. Ottey’s driving layup with 9:42 to go capped a 6-0 run to give UIC a 54-53 lead. But Oakland converted two 3-point plays and quickly reestablished an eight-point lead.

The second quarter started with the Flames hot, forcing three turnovers in the first three minutes. Lampley and Toney shouldered the scoring at the start, combining for eight points to put UIC within one possession, 25-22.

UIC went almost three minutes without a basket and the visitors went ahead, 32-22. Catera Etheridge came up with a big three to reignite the offense, 32-25.

Toney stole the ball and scored, but the Panthers responded with another four points. The Flames ended the half down by four, 40-36.

Milwaukee’s lead grew to 25 (74-49) in the fourth period, and UIC ended the game with a 23-point loss, 76-53.

The Flames will hit the road to take on Wright State Friday and Northern Kentucky Sunday.

Women’s team comes up short vs. Milwaukee

By Jenn Zoellick — jennz@uic.edu

The women’s basketball team (7-10, 0-6 Horizon League) took a 76-53 loss Monday afternoon versus Milwaukee (13-5, 4-2 HL) at the UIC Pavilion.

Taylor Toney continued her offensive success for the Flames, putting in a team-high 16 points. Tylah Lampley was also in double digits for the third time in four games, with 12 points.

UIC scored first on a jumper at the hands of Gabryelle Johnson, but Milwaukee took the next 11 before the Flames scored again.

The Flames were able to turn things around and go on a 8-0 run to make the deficit more manageable, 16-12, with jumpers from Toney and Lampley.

The first 10 minutes ended with a 21-14 advantage for the visitors.

The second quarter started with the Flames hot, forcing three turnovers in the first three minutes. Lampley and Toney shouldered the scoring at the start, combining for eight points to put UIC within one possession, 25-22.

UIC went almost three minutes without a basket and the visitors went ahead, 32-22. Catera Etheridge came up with a big three to reignite the offense, 32-25.

Toney stole the ball and scored, but the Panthers responded with another four points. The Flames ended the half down by four, 40-36.

Milwaukee drew first blood in the second half with 10 unanswered points before Gabryelle Johnson rebounded a missed shot to get UIC on the board, 50-38.

Milwaukee’s lead grew to 25 (74-49) in the fourth period, and UIC ended the game with a 23-point loss, 76-53.

The Flames will hit the road to take on Wright State Friday and Northern Kentucky Sunday.

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FLAMES @ HOME

Friday, Jan. 19—Saturday, Jan. 20
Swimming and diving Flames Invitational
Flames Natatorium
View schedule at uicflames.com

Sunday, Jan. 21
Men’s gymnastics vs. University of Iowa
2 p.m. / UIC Pavilion