Students find their niche at Involvement Fair

University freezes tuition for fourth year in a row

UIC breaks ground on new academic, residential complex

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If you are trying to find your niche at UIC, good news — you have options.

Amongst the free hot chocolate, trendy music and crowd of students, the UIC Winter Involvement Fair, hosted by the Center for Student Involvement Jan. 18 and 19, featured more than 180 student organizations — from religious groups and professional organizations to Greek life and cultural organizations.

Sarah Quick, a sophomore and member of Phi Sigma Sigma, describes her sorority using three words: philanthropy, service and social. The female leaders focus on volunteer work and empowering women, meeting for chapter once a week.

"Being in a sorority at UIC strays away from the stigma that follows most sororities — here we are chill and work on growing together," she said.

Senior Maurice "Mo" Kendall found a sense of belonging on campus through the religious group Melchizedek.

"I had a hard time fitting in at first," he said. He said the group keeps him involved on and off campus through volunteering, making friends and finding support through Bible study.

UIC also has plenty of multicultural groups that dig a little deeper into one’s ethnic background.

Sophomore Lici Rivera has been a part of the Union for Puerto Rican Students since freshman year. Being a part of this group, she has been able to connect with other students of the same background and learn more about her Puerto Rican heritage.

Vance Pierce, associate director of student organization resources in the UIC Center for Student Involvement, said the Involvement Fair is a way for students to pave their own path at UIC.

“It's a chance to make your connection at UIC, and to help make this campus what you’re expecting of it. Look for these opportunities to make UIC what you want,” Pierce said.

A sense of community can be found among the multitude of organizations UIC has to offer. To find out more about UIC student organizations, visit connect.uic.edu

— Farooq Chaudhry contributed to this report

By Jessica Larocque — jlaroc4@uic.edu
U of I System freezes in-state tuition for fourth year in a row

By University Relations

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees voted Thursday to freeze tuition for in-state freshmen next fall for the fourth consecutive year, extending an affordability initiative that seeks to help keep more talented students in Illinois for college.

The freeze for the U of I System’s universities in Chicago, Springfield and Urbana-Champaign matches the longest consecutive freeze in more than four decades, since a four-year-run of flat rates from 1974 to 1977.

University President Tim Killeen said holding the line on costs for Illinois undergraduates is critical to stem an exodus that has left Illinois second only to New Jersey in the net number of students lost to colleges in other states. In 2016, 46 percent of college-bound high school graduates in Illinois enrolled out of state, up from 29 percent in 2002.

“Turning the tide is crucial to Illinois’ future, based on studies that show most college graduates stay in the state where they earned their degrees. And since the tuition freeze began, the U of I System has been helping lead the way,” Killeen said.

In-state undergraduate enrollment across the system has increased 6.2 percent, up by more than 2,200 students from the fall of 2014 to the fall of 2017. Total system-wide enrollment has increased 6.6 percent to a record 83,711 students over that time.

Under the extended freeze, base tuition for in-state undergraduates next fall will match rates that have held steady since the 2014–15 academic year — $12,036 a year in Urbana-Champaign, $10,584 in Chicago, and $9,405 in Springfield. There also will be no change to tuition differentials for academic units at any of the universities. Differentials cover the additional costs of providing the highest-quality education in selected areas of study.

Tuition rates for incoming Illinois students will remain unchanged for four years under the state’s guaranteed tuition law, enacted to help students plan ahead by fixing tuition rates at public universities for the four years required to complete most undergraduate degree programs.

That means that an in-state student who enrolls next fall would pay the same rate when she graduates in 2022 as her older sister paid when she entered the U of I System in 2014," Killeen said.

At UIC, base tuition will increase by 1.5 percent for most out-of-state freshmen and by 1.4 percent for those who qualify under a program for high-achieving, out-of-state students. International rates will increase by 1.8 percent.

Tuition will increase for some graduate and professional programs in Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, but would remain at current levels in Springfield.

Killeen said rates for the 2018–19 academic year reflect a commitment to student affordability and access that was reaffirmed in a new Strategic Framework adopted in 2016 that sets high-aspiration goals to build on the U of I System’s service to students and the public good.

Nationwide, tuition and fees rose by an average 3.1 percent at four-year public colleges and universities for the current academic year, based on the latest survey by the College Board, a nonprofit association representing U.S. colleges and universities. Along with the tuition freeze, mandatory fee increases of less than 1 percent have been proposed for next year across the U of I System.

During the first three years of the U of I freeze, tuition and fees have increased by an average 9 percent among four-year public colleges and universities, according to the College Board.

Undergraduate fees/housing

The board also approved mandatory student fees and room-and-board rates for the 2018–19 academic year.

Fees exclude transportation fees and optional student health insurance rates, which will be set in the spring. Fees approved Thursday help fund costs such as operating campus recreational facilities, student unions, career services, athletics, counseling centers and libraries, and also help with facility maintenance, renovations and utilities.

At UIC, fees will increase 0.4 percent, or $14, to $3,146 a year.

The cost for a standard double-occupancy room and meal plan will increase 1 percent to $11,070 per year.

Mellon grants to fund humanities research, Latino doctoral studies

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

UIC has received two grants totaling nearly $1.9 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund expanded opportunities for undergraduate research in the humanities and to assist doctoral candidates in Latino humanities studies.

As part of the Engaged Humanities Initiative (EHI) the university will receive $1 million over four-and-a-half years to teach and mentor undergraduate students to explore and conduct research in the humanities at UIC.

The initiative will be based in the UIC Institute for the Humanities, where students who are part of EHI will have the opportunity to meet with mentors, attend lectures and workshops, and engage in professional development. UIC faculty will teach seminars that introduce students to the humanities and guide them in learning research methods and developing research topics.

Faculty will also mentor students who are preparing for graduate school and other careers that will draw on their humanities education.

Because students attending UIC hail from such diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds, UIC Provost Susan Poser, who is also the principal investigator on the grant, expects that the topics they choose as research projects will reflect this diversity and expand the type and scope of research that students choose to pursue.

“This in turn will encourage faculty to explore how humanities education and pedagogy can adapt to become more connected to, and inclusive of, the lives of this generation of students. Long term, this program will help UIC become a model of humanities education for the 21st century,” Poser said.

In addition to this three-year grant, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research — a UIC-based national Latino research consortium — has received an $884,088 grant from the Mellon Foundation to continue its efforts to support doctoral students working in Latino humanities.

The initiative previously received an $800,000 grant from Mellon.

The grant is part of the efforts of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research to develop a national fellowship program designed to mentor Latino studies scholars as they complete their doctoral research and improve their job-market readiness.

The latest grant will go to help six fellows chosen every year from the consortium’s centers, including UIC, to complete their dissertation in Latino studies in the humanities, said Maria de los Angeles Torres, professor of Latin American and Latino studies and the executive director of the consortium.

“ar three of those people who benefited was Jose Castellanos, who received his doctorate during the 2016–2017 school year and is currently teaching at Loyola University in Chicago.

“The fellowship has literally changed my life,” Castellanos said. “Like the fellowship did for me, I have the opportunity to help students who just need a little push and a little extra help to graduate.”

Joining Poser on the Engaged Humanities Initiative grant proposal was Astrida Tantillo, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Mark Canuel, professor and director of the UIC Institute for the Humanities; and Sara Hall, Associate Professor of Germanic studies and director, Office of Undergraduate Research.
UI Health joins committee to improve health on West Side

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

UI Health is part of the newly formed West Side Anchor Committee — a group that includes several nearby hospitals and other organizations that together will find ways to use their local, collective economic power to improve community health through creating economic opportunities for the people who live on Chicago's West Side.

"The West Side Anchor Committee formed to help address some of the social determinants of health: jobs and economic opportunities are two factors that play a huge role in health," said Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs.

The West Side Anchor Committee is a sub-committee of the West Side Total Health Collaborative, which will formally launch this year. Members of this group, which include representatives from government, nonprofit, education and health care institutions will propose initiatives to improve neighborhood health by addressing inequalities in health care, education, economic vitality and the physical environment. The overarching goal: to halve the 16-year life-expectancy gap between the Loop and West Garfield Park by 2028.

The West Side Anchor Committee includes individuals from UI Health and UIC, Cook County Health & Hospitals System, Presence Health, Lurie Children's Hospital, Rush System, Loretto Hospital and the Illinois Medical District. Collectively, these health care institutions represent 43,000 total employees. In 2015 and 2016, more than 5,600 individuals were hired and $2.8 billion was spent on external supplies and services by these institutions.

More than 400,000 people call the West Side home, but health outcomes for this community are worse than other communities in Chicago. Life expectancy in West Garfield Park, one of the neighborhoods on the West Side, is 69 years old, compared with 85 years for people living in the Loop. Rates of diabetes, obesity, cancer and asthma are particularly high on the West Side.

Some of the core goals of the West Side Anchor Committee are to hire, invest and purchase collectively so that opportunity flows to residents of the West Side.

"The goal is that the member organizations work together to better the communities we serve," Barish said. "This is a long-term commitment, and we are excited to be part of this initiative."

The West Side Anchor Committee is supported by Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy and the Civic Consulting Alliance.

Free jazz concert series comes to UIC

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

UIC students and others will have an opportunity to hear "America’s original music — jazz" during a series of free concerts held on the campus this spring, sponsored by a nationally known jazz teacher and publisher.

Jamey Aebersold, a jazz saxophonist who began publishing the “Play-A-Long” instructional series in 1967 and runs workshops at colleges nationally, is teaming up with officials at the UIC School of Theatre and Music to sponsor the monthly series this semester.

The aim of the series is to display the talent of local musicians and highlight jazz music on the campus, said UIC clinical assistant professor Zvonimir Tot, who helped organize the series.

“We are grateful to Mr. Aebersold for his generous support and look forward to presenting the finest Chicago jazz musicians in a concert setting at UIC. The series will provide an opportunity for UIC students and the public to experience outstanding jazz musicians in an intimate setting,” said Tot, a jazz guitarist, composer and arranger.

Aebersold said he decided to sponsor the four-concert series, which will run monthly between January and April, after having previously lectured about music and jazz on the UIC campus. He worked with Tot to set up the free series so that it would be accessible to the broadest audience.

“Jazz has been my life and I try to spread the music to people who may not otherwise go to a jazz concert,” said Aebersold. “I hope they will have a unique experience with improvisation/jazz and that it may help them appreciate this fantastic art form.”

The concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room L285 of the Education, Theatre, Music, and Social Work Building, 1044 W. Harrison St., on the following dates:

• On Jan. 24, the 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.

• Feb. 21, Howard Levy and Chris Siebold will perform. Levy, considered by many as the world’s foremost virtuoso on diatonic harmonica, will perform with Siebold, a guitar virtuoso who played in the band on National Public Radio’s show “A Prairie Home Companion” for several years.

• March 21 will feature the Eric Schneider Quartet. Schneider is one of the leading saxophonists on the Chicago jazz scene, as well as an alumnus of Earl Hines’ and Duke Ellington’s bands.

• April 18 will mark the final concert with the Greg Ward Quartet. Ward, a saxophonist and composer, has performed with the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

For more information, email ztot@uic.edu

Submit campus news items at today.uic.edu/campus-news/submit-your-story-ideas
Campus celebrates groundbreaking for academic, residential complex

By Christy Levy — christyb@uic.edu

It was just 16 degrees when then-Mayor Richard J. Daley cut the ceremonial ribbon for the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle campus in 1965, so it was “appropriate” to host a groundbreaking ceremony for UIC’s newest campus building on a day that started with snow but had reached a sunny 24 degrees by afternoon, said UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis.

University leaders, city and state officials, representatives from American Campus Communities and more gathered at the Port Center in University Hall Tuesday afternoon to celebrate a new residential and academic complex under construction on the east side of campus.

“This new facility will revitalize campus housing and provide much-needed amenities to our students,” Amiridis said. “By creating innovative public-private partnerships, we are able to address our capital infrastructure needs in the current fiscal environment.”

Campus enrollment has had great momentum, Amiridis said, topping 30,000 students this fall.

“The plans also call for 51,000 square feet of academic space in the structure, including three large lecture halls, four classrooms, several small group study rooms, a tutoring center, computer stations and collaboration spaces.

The $100 million facility is part of a public-private partnership with American Campus Communities, an Austin, Texas-based company and the nation’s largest developer, owner and manager of high-quality student housing communities.

“The creative method of financing this project is a wonderful example of how you can create a public-private partnership for the benefit of Chicagoans,” Thompson said.

Chicago Deputy Mayor Robert Rivkin said the new building will benefit generations of students in Chicago.

“A new university building is about more than steel and concrete — it’s about creating a campus community,” he said.

The building is scheduled to open in August 2019.

“I guarantee, on that day, the weather will be slightly better than it is today,” Amiridis said.

Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs; Susan Poser, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Janet Parker, associate chancellor for budget and resource planning, and J. Rex Tolliver, vice chancellor for student affairs. (Photo: Jenny Fontaine)
UIC students celebrated the beginning of a new semester during Winterfest Saturday, hosted by the Center for Student Involvement and Student Activities Board.

Students enjoyed free ice skating at Maggie Daley Park and stayed warm with some soup and hot chocolate.

To view upcoming Center for Student Involvement events, visit connect.uic.edu

(Photos: UIC Creative and Digital Services)
The UIC community experienced what UIC Campus Recreation has to offer during Rec Live Jan. 18 at the Student Recreation Facility. During the open house, participants had the chance to check out programs and services offered at campus recreation facilities. Guests tried out fitness classes, took a fitness challenge, tested their skills on a climbing wall, met with members of sports clubs, had free chair massages and more.

For more information on UIC Campus Recreation, visit recreation.uic.edu

(Photos: Carley Mostar)
THROUGH 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. 24 SPECIAL EVENT

GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER MEET AND GREET

Networking for new and returning students, employees and alumni.

3–5 p.m.
Rooms 181-183
Behavioral Sciences Building

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. 27 WORKSHOP

CREATING CANDELA’S CASCARONES: UIC ARQUITECTOS WORKSHOP

Workshop inspired by the work of Félix Candela, an architect best known for his innovative “cascarones,” or shell structures.

3–5 p.m.
Gallery 400
Art and Design Hall

JAN. 31 LECTURE

LOVE, LITERATURE AND DREAM OF A GERMAN NATION

Lecture by Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellow Heidi Schlipphacke, associate professor of Germanic studies and classics.

4–5:30 p.m.
Institute for the Humanities
Lower level, Stevenson Hall

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event
UIC teams up with Brighton Park church to provide support to Mexican migrants
By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

The UIC Center for Global Health has launched an initiative to provide psycho-social support to migrant families from Mexico who are members of the Immaculate Conception Parish on the southwest side. The church, in the Brighton Park neighborhood, serves roughly 3,000 families, most of them migrant families from Mexico.

“Many migrants, especially those that are undocumented, don't have access to mental health services, but they face unique challenges and stressors, especially if they are part of a mixed status family,” said Stevan Weine, professor of psychiatry in the UIC College of Medicine and director of the UIC Center for Global Health. “Migrants are more likely to face discrimination and violence, and many have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression or anxiety. While many don’t have access to mental health services, they do have access to the church, so it is culturally synchronous to provide care for this population in the church.”

To fill the gap in access to mental health services, Weine and colleagues in the UIC department of psychiatry, and members of the Immaculate Conception Parish, worked together to develop a support program to families in the church struggling with stress, depression, anxiety and other mental health issues.

The program is called Fortaleciendo Mi Familia, which means ‘strengthening my family,’ and is based on a low-intensity psychosocial support program developed by Weine and colleagues that has been used with Bosnian and Kosovar refugee families. “The program teaches kids and their families how to care for themselves, for example, deep breathing to reduce your level of anxiety or stress,” Weine said. The program also draws on work by the World Health Organization which has helped advance migrant mental health programs throughout the world.

Weine and his colleagues are currently training lay members of the parish to lead group sessions made up of six to eight families including children above 12 years old. They anticipate the sessions will begin this winter. Lay leaders will engage families in a discussion about their challenges and stressors, and find strategies for managing stress and anxiety. These facilitators will also help families access resources, including those pertaining to migration and citizenship.

Families will be approached by lay trainees to gauge their interest in participating in the program. Those that do will attend three to four sessions over the course of about a month, with each session lasting about two hours.

“The idea is to give these families knowledge and skills that they can apply to their unique situations to help reduce stress and depression,” Weine said.

Over the next few months, the parish aims to deliver the intervention to 50 families. They plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the program by following up with participants immediately after, and one month after the program ends. "We hope that the program will be successful and that we will be able to expand it so that more migrants at this church and perhaps at others could also participate," Weine said.
U of I, City Colleges expand guaranteed admission partnership

By University Relations

A guaranteed admission partnership with City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) has been expanded to include all three U of I System universities and that top transfers will be eligible for scholarships through a new pilot program.

The new initiatives will expand educational opportunities for Chicago-area students by uniting Illinois’ largest university system with the state’s largest community college system. The U of I System’s three universities and CCC’s seven campuses each serve more than 80,000 students annually.

The transfer partnership grew recently to guarantee admission across the U of I System through new agreements between CCC and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois at Springfield. The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) already had a longstanding transfer partnership with CCC.

Under the agreements, students who enroll at CCC will be guaranteed admission anywhere in the U of I System if they meet their selected university’s admission requirements, then complete required community college credits.

University President Tim Killeen said CCC transfers also will be eligible to compete for five scholarships of $2,500 a year for up to two years under a newly created pilot program that will ultimately grow to 10 scholarships.

Transfers to UIC will be eligible for additional awards through an existing program offered to students who study at CCC under STAR Scholarships, which provide free tuition to Chicago Public School graduates with a 3.0 grade-point average who test high in math and English. UIC awards scholarships to about 250 STAR transfers annually, providing $2,500 for up to two years.

“Through these partnerships, we are expanding the U of I System’s bedrock commitment to access and affordability,” Killeen said.

“These partnerships reflect the U of I System’s bedrock commitment to access and affordability, creating an easier pathway into our universities and providing the financial support that is so important to help students achieve their dreams,” Killeen said.

From 2012 to 2016, transfer enrollment across the U of I System grew about 14 percent to more than 3,900, including more than 400 from CCC — a nearly 60 percent increase. The U of I System has about three dozen guaranteed admission agreements with Illinois community colleges.

“THESE PARTNERSHIPS REFLECT THE U OF I SYSTEM’S BEDROCK COMMITMENT TO ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.”

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DEATHS

Tracy Robinson
UIC Athletics

Tracy Robinson, an academic advisor in the UIC Athletics Port Academic Center, died suddenly Jan. 14. She was 48.

Robinson was in her first year as an advisor at UIC. She joined UIC in July and worked tirelessly with the men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams to help student-athletes achieve their goals in the classroom.

“Tracy was one of the most dedicated and well-respected individuals in our Athletics Department,” said UIC Director of Athletics Garrett Klassy. “Not only did she provide great support to the student-athletes here at UIC, but she was also a dear friend to many. The impact she made on UIC Athletics and our student-athletes will last forever. We have lost an irreplaceable member of the UIC family.”

“It was a privilege and a blessing to UIC to have Tracy Robinson serve as a highly respected academic professional on the Port Center staff,” said Carolyn O’Connell, executive director of the Port Academic Center. “She inspired us all with her passion for education and her love for UIC student-athletes. Her ability to touch all hearts with compassion and her energy and encouragement to lead students to achieve their academic goals was a gift to us.”

“As a colleague, her contributions to enhancing the UIC student-athlete experience were invaluable to providing a transformative education for the Flames. Her memory will be eternal to everyone whose life was touched by Tracy Robinson. She will be truly missed.”

“From the day we started working together, we could tell there was something special about Tracy,” said head men’s and women’s swimming coach Tim Loeffler. “And to her credit, she brought something special every day she was with us.

“No matter how many hours she put in, no matter how many students were there to see her, Tracy was there for every single one of them,” added Loeffler. “She loved her work, she loved her students, she loved being a part of our Flames family.”

“To the person that pushed me to pursue my dreams with the most keen interest and love, thank you, Tracy, you will be missed,” said Niko Wasilewicz, a member of the UIC men’s tennis team.

Robinson arrived in Chicago with wide-ranging experience in higher education and coaching, along with a strong commitment to the academic component of the student-athlete. The Manhattan, Kansas, native mentored, tutored and developed strategies that assisted in student growth and success. As both an educator and coach, Robinson advanced a strong understanding of eligibility requirements and the NCAA Eligibility Center. She also gave her time as a coach at the high school level in various sports, including volleyball, basketball and track.

Prior to entering a career in education and athletics, Robinson was a student-athlete herself at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, playing volleyball for the Ichabods. She led the team in kills in 1991 with 225 and ranks eighth on the program’s career blocks list with 374.

Robinson graduated from Washburn with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1993. She also went on earn a bachelor’s degree in secondary education in 1995 while taking coursework toward a master’s in counseling.

Memorial services will be held next month. Visit uicflames.com for updates.

UIC News  |  Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Holli DeVon
Nurse researcher receives Fulbright to study in Rwanda

By Sam Hostettler — samhos@uic.edu

UIC nursing professor Holli DeVon will continue conducting research on cardiovascular disease this semester, but she will be off-campus to do so. Way off campus.

DeVon has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to study predictors of premature cardiovascular disease in HIV-positive patients in Rwanda, an African country of more than 11 million people located a few degrees south of the equator.

DeVon’s research, to be conducted with Brenda Asiimwe-Kateera from the University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences, will focus on reducing cardiovascular disease through screenings, risk reduction strategies and symptom surveillance in individuals with HIV. She will expand her research to the U.S. following her fellowship.

After eight years of contemplating whether to apply for such a prestigious award, DeVon felt that this was the year to submit an application to the Fulbright organization. But she was undecided where in the world she was most needed. She knew after discussing it with former UIC nursing dean Mi-Ja Kim, “Mi-Ja immediately said to go to Rwanda,” DeVon said. In 2012, Kim led a UIC contingent that participated in the Rwanda Human Resources for Health program, whose goal is to improve nursing and midwifery, dental and medical education, along with human resources, in the East African nation. UIC was one of five U.S. nursing schools selected for the program, and since that time Kim, as well as other UIC clinical nursing faculty, have been teaching at the University of Rwanda.

DeVon and her research team have used an integrated, biobehavioral approach by studying genetic, inflammatory and behavioral aspects of ischemic heart disease, which is characterized by reduced blood supply to the heart and is the most common cause of death in most western countries. An additional research interest has been individuals that are vulnerable to poor health outcomes as a result of age, race/ethnicity, and/or low social status.

HIV and cardiovascular disease and chronic diseases diminish quality of life, reduce physical and mental function, and require symptom management. Rwanda has successfully reduced the incidence of HIV but has seen an increase in non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, DeVon said.

“OUR central hypothesis is that risk factor predictors of cardiovascular disease are multifactorial with biological, physiological, psychological and social determinants adding to individual variations, and that women and men will differ on predictors,” she said.

“The rationale for our study is that antiretroviral drugs lead to vascular damage and early onset cardiovascular disease.”

While in Rwanda, DeVon hopes to provide community workshops on cardiovascular health and preventive care, with the goal of decreasing cardiovascular risk factors. Her goal, she said, is to “engage the local community to improve their health, to increase cultural understanding, and build a rapport with those with whom I can interact.

“The human condition is not all that different around the world. It’s just the environment around the world. It’s not all that different around the world. It’s just the environment. That is different. I’m extremely excited about this opportunity.”

2017 UIC Distinguished Professors

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

The UIC Distinguished Professors program recognizes scholarship, creativity and leadership. Faculty members are nominated by their peers and are selected by a committee that includes others who have received the honor.

The 2017 distinguished professors are:

Judy Bolton, professor and head of medicinal chemistry and pharmacognosy in the College of Pharmacy. Bolton’s research focuses on post-menopausal women’s health and exploring the bioactivation pathways of estrogen in order to explain the carcinogenic effects of prescribed estrogen replacement therapies. She has been funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health since 1997 and has more than 140 publications in high-impact academic journals.

Scott Brady, professor of anatomy and cell biology in the College of Medicine. Brady’s research focuses on targeting the basic science of cellular molecular motors and helping unravel the mysteries of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and ALS. He is among a small group of researchers credited with the identification of a new group of molecular motors called Kinesins. Brady has published more than 110 peer-reviewed papers and 71 book chapters. He receives close to $900,000 in funding annually.

Bing Liu, professor of computer science in the College of Engineering. Liu’s research interests include sentiment analysis and opinion mining, data mining and machine learning, and natural language processing. He is credited with several research breakthroughs, including detection of opinion spam and fake reviews. Bing has published more than 200 research papers, 75 of which appear in top-tier journals and conferences.
**SPORTS**

**Men’s basketball team scores win on road**

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

UIC picked up another Horizon League victory on the road Saturday afternoon, toppling Cleveland State, 87-80. It was the third consecutive win away from home for the Flames (10-11, 5-3 Horizon League).

The Flames return home this week, hosting IUPUI at 3 p.m. Saturday at the UIC Pavilion. The Flames will celebrate Alumni Day Saturday, with former student-athletes invited back to the UIC Pavilion. For more information, or to RSVP, visit goo.gl/U4AtdX

With five wins in the first eight conference games, UIC is off to its best start in conference play since the 2012–13 campaign. The three consecutive road wins mark the first three-game winning streak away from home since the 2008–09 season.

During Saturday’s game versus Cleveland State, Godwin Boahen came off the bench and scored a team and season-high 18 points for the Flames. Jordan Blount added a career-high 17 points and nine rebounds.

The Flames first extended the lead to the double-double of the season. Tai Odiase netted 12 points and became the 23rd player in program history to reach 1,000 for his career. He now has 1,006 points.

Both teams struggled shooting the ball in the early going. UIC (3-of-9) and Cleveland State (4-of-12) opened by converting at a clip of 33 percent from the field, helping the Vikings get out to a slim 8-7 lead. Following a timeout, Marcus Ottey rolled in a layup for the Flames to begin a stretch when UIC made six of its next nine shots.

Cleveland State led 23-21 before Tarkus Ferguson ignited a 13-2 UIC run to snatch a nine-point lead, the largest of the half. Boahen gave the Flames a 34-25 advantage with 3:17 left in the frame thanks to a pull-up jumper.

The Vikings went on their own 11-1 surge to take a lead in the final minute of the half. Two free throws from Tyree Appleby put the home team up by three, but they would not be able to maintain the lead for long.

CSU’s Kenny Carpenter clanked a 3-pointer and Odiase ripped down the rebound with about 10 seconds to go in the period. Odiase passed to Dominique Matthews, who found freshman Michael Diggins camped out in the corner in front of the Viking bench. Diggins splashed down a triple as time expired to put UIC ahead, 40-38, at the break.

UIC jumped on Cleveland State to start the second stanza. The Flames got the lead back to double digits in a span of 4:26 when Ferguson scored a 3-pointer that gave his team an 11-point lead. The cushion expanded to 20 for the first time on a basket inside from Jacob Wiley with 11:54 remaining in the contest.

The Flames first extended the lead to a game-high 22 points when Matthews put back his own miss with 8:16 left on the clock. Later, Boahen connected from beyond the arc for one of his two 3-pointers that put UIC in front, 75-53.

The Vikings refused to go away quietly, orchestrating a 12-0 run in less than three minutes. Dikembe Dixson got to the free throw line and made a pair to regain a double-digit lead.

CSU’s Bobby Word later made a 3-pointer that made it a five-point game with 8.8 seconds remaining. After a foul, Ferguson buried a pair of free throws to propel UIC into the win column, 87-80.

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**Flames swim to victory on Senior Day**

By Tim Hurley — thurley@uic.edu

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams capped a successful Senior Day with wins over Olivet Nazarene Saturday at Flames Natatorium.

Before the meet, the team recognized its seniors for their dedication and commitment to the team over the last four years.

The women topped ONU, 138-63, and the UIC’s men were victorious by a 135.5-66.5 score.

Sean Scarry was the 3-meter and 1-meter diving champion. His scores on both boards were personal season highs.

The men started the swimming portion of the meet with a win in the 200 medley relay. Danny Sivak, Evan Johnson, Eric Weng and Connor Horns were on the winning team.

Nathan Bosse took first in the 200 free, out-touching teammate Michael Tegeler by 0.02 seconds. Bosse also finished second in the 100 fly. Homans won the 100 free in 47.84 seconds, and Sivak took first in the 100 back.

Hunter Crook, Tegeler, and Jacob Cunningham finished 1-2-3 in the 500 free. Tanner Alms, Bosse, Weng, and Homans teamed up to win the 200 free relay.

Cydney Liebenberg was the winner on the 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards. Her scores on both boards surpassed the NCAA Zone qualifying marks, and her 3-meter score of 315.38 set a season high.

Kelly McGowan, Sophia Shalabi, Marisa Savegnago and Nikki Eyssen emerged victorious in the 200 medley relay.

Lexie Joy captured the 200 and 500 free. Shalabi won the 50 free, with Misha Neal finishing right behind in second.

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**FLAMES @ HOME**

Saturday, Jan. 27

Men’s basketball vs. IUPUI

3 p.m., UIC Pavilion

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