Ease your way through a hectic semester

By Michelle Garcia De La Vega — mgarc39@uic.edu

It’s week five, we are definitely back in the college routine — 8 a.m. classes, long shifts at work, student organizations, internships, essays, group projects, and the list can go on and on.

Although every semester has something innovative to offer, such as new knowledge, opportunities for professional and personal growth, and memorable experiences, there is no denying that it is also very overwhelming. The semester is often accompanied by countless all-nighters, a fair amount of multitasking, headaches, stress, fatigue, and large doses of caffeine.

If you often find yourself struggling to gather sufficient energy throughout the semester or simply trying to find more moments of tranquility here’s what you can do:

• Try to get eight hours of sleep — or at least six.
• Improve your time-management skills by investing in a planner. Organize your day or whole week. Organization is key.
• Make sure you’re consuming a fair amount of greens, fruits, whole grains, and other healthy foods that carry the important nutrients that fuel our bodies.
• Dedicate a few minutes of your day to stretching or pick up on some yoga. There are several videos for beginners on YouTube.
• Find an ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response) video on YouTube that you find relaxing.
• Make some time to socialize with your friends and family in person, even if it’s only for 20 minutes. They are sure to make you laugh.
• Stay away from your smartphone! I know this can be a bit difficult. Our smartphones are the way we stay connected with our friends and the rest of the world, but sometimes it’s good to disconnect. Let your eyes rest a little.
• Get lost in the pages of your favorite novel. Our brains need a little break from scholarly articles and research.
• Try to incorporate exercise routines throughout your week and stay hydrated.

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

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Pack the Pavilion for Family Day

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

#PackThePav Family Day 2018 welcomes students, staff, families and guests to campus for UIC fun and fandom Feb. 25.

The event will celebrate family and the culmination of the men’s basketball season at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave.

At the event, people can “learn more about UIC, experience the UIC culture,” said Marcus Betts, visiting senior director of community and corporate relations. “We’ve got a lot of really exciting things lined up.”

Activities like meet and greets with UIC mascot Sparky D. Dragon, temporary tattoos and more are set to begin at 4 p.m.

Two graduating players, Tai Odiase and Clint Robinson, will be honored before the Flames go head-to-head with the Wright State Raiders at 5 p.m.

A $1 hot dog offer and raffles for textbook vouchers and free pizza for a year from Bacci Pizzeria will take place, too. Some guests will also get free UIC gear.

An on-court shoot around will take place after the game.

Admission for #PackThePav is free for UIC students with a valid i-card. Staff and guests can purchase tickets at communityrelations.uic.edu. Use the promo code PACK for a special $5 price. Parking will also be available for $5 in Parking Lot 1B, 1139 W. Harrison St.

Groups that need transportation may be accommodated. Contact Community Relations at community@uic.edu.

Campus Conversation examines tax code rewrite

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

The passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in late December forced employers to quickly implement new withholding rates and left individual filers unsure about its impact on their tax status.

The Office of the Provost’s Campus Conversation series convened experts Feb. 7 at Student Center East to sort out the massive 1,000-page rewrite of the tax code in a discussion titled “What is the Tax Reform Act and Why Does It Matter?”

The specialists addressed an array of issues, including the plan’s likely impact on standard deduction filing, mortgage and property tax deductions, retirement savings and local government.

“There’s going to be wide-spread agreement among economists that lower marginal tax rates do less to discourage work — or less to discourage earning income — than higher tax rates,” said moderator David Merriman, James J. Stukel Presidential professor and professor of public administration.

Post-passage of the law, uncertainty surrounds its efficiency, equity and what behavioral responses from households and businesses will transpire.

Something has to give when tax cuts are provided, said Robert Chirinko, professor of finance.

“Either spending must decrease, which would be a problem because the government has a number of things it needs to do to support education, research, infrastructure and so on,” he said. “Deficits might have to increase; therefore, there will be less funds for borrowing for things like student loans.”

About one-quarter of all tax forms file using itemized deductions, but that is expected to drop to around 10 percent under the new legislation, according to Erik Hembre, assistant professor of economics, who says the tax cut takes the “legs out” of the mortgage interest deduction.

“Partially by lowering the maximum amount of mortgage interest that you can deduct, but mostly through the fact a lot fewer people are going to be itemizing their deduction and as a result getting a benefit from the mortgage interest deduction,” he said.

Hembre also considers the $10,000 cap on state and local government property tax deductions a progressive move that skews to affect higher income earners.

Overall, the tax code changes appear to shrink the economic pie, which favors the upper income groups.

“If we thought of inequality as a problem going into this, it’s going to be even more of a problem going out,” Chirinko said.

Retirement plans serve as the prime savings vehicle for the average worker, said Kathryn Kennedy, professor and director of the Center for Tax Law and Employee Benefits at John Marshall Law School.

“To the extent it is reduced or the interest on it is altered, we’re all going to be hurting,” she said. “And we all know Social Security may not be the safety net we thought it would be.”

Michael Pagano, dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, cautioned that issues will arise at the state and local level, where governments provide the protection of life and property.

“Be careful what you wish for, because what is most vulnerable are the social service programs, the health programs, Medicare, housing, and support for the poor,” he said. “We are in for a bitter battle about the survival and soul of state and local governments in the United States.”

The panelists agreed that major tax reform in the near future is unlikely due to historical precedence and current lack of bipartisanship among lawmakers.

Kennedy called the latest act a “very rushed” piece of tax legislation.

“If we learn anything from history, we’ll discover that it’ll have unintended consequences because they don’t have all the right people in the room at the time,” she said.
Four UIC researchers advance in Chicago Biomedical Consortium Accelerator Awards competition

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Four researchers from the College of Medicine are finalists in the Chicago Biomedical Consortium Accelerator Awards competition.

The Chicago Biomedical Consortium is made up of researchers at UIC, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago who work together to make discoveries that will transform biomedical research and improve health.

The consortium launched a new Accelerator Award program in 2018 to support translational research and provide university researchers with early commercial guidance. The awards will provide up to $100,000 for one year and will be used to support the initial — and therefore highest risk — stage of commercially directed research focused on the development of a therapeutic or an associated biomarker or diagnostic.

The program received 32 submissions, and researchers from nine of the proposals were asked to present to the Chicago Biomedical Consortium Accelerator Network in early February. Four of those proposals were from UIC researchers.

The Chicago Biomedical Consortium will select the winners of the Accelerator Awards in March or early April.

The UIC finalists are:

Shiva Shahrara, associate professor of rheumatology

Shahrara’s group is investigating to find a new treatment that can slow or eliminate rheumatoid arthritis progression. Currently, there is no cure for rheumatoid arthritis, and as many as 40 percent of patients do not respond to available therapies. Sharara and colleagues have identified a receptor called TLR5 that plays a central role in promoting joint inflammation and bone erosion and have developed an antibody against TLR5 that impairs one of the processes involved in rheumatoid arthritis. They will test whether TLR5 antibody therapy can alleviate joint swelling and bone destruction compared with the traditional therapies.

Brian Layden, professor and chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism

Layden’s group is developing a new treatment for Type 2 diabetes based on their discovery that a protein called FFA3 mediates insulin secretion and plays a role in the development of insulin resistance — a major characteristic of Type 2 diabetes. Layden’s group has shown blocking this protein could have beneficial effects. They will screen for small drug molecules that can block FFA3. Future work will develop these molecules into compounds that are suitable for testing in vivo and eventually in pre-clinical and clinical studies.

Arnon Lavie, professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics

Lavie’s group is working on improving a drug called L-asparaginase that is currently limited to the treatment of a certain type of leukemia. L-asparaginases break down the amino acid asparagine. Some cancer cells, such as those behind acute lymphoblastic leukemia, are dependent on asparagine. Therapeutic L-asparaginase preparations are toxic because of the bacterial origin of current L-asparaginases, and because they also break down another amino acid called glutamine. Lavie is working on overcoming these factors using L-asparaginase from guinea pigs. Guinea pig L-asparaginase is very similar to its human form and is less likely to cause an immune response. The guinea pig version also doesn’t break down glutamine. They will develop the guinea pig enzyme so that it remains in the blood, where it can deliver its anti-cancer effects over an extended period of time. They hope to further refine their drug to replace current bacteria-derived drugs in the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia and test it against other cancers.

Yulia Komarova, associate professor of pharmacology

Komarova and colleagues are developing a new treatment for age-related macular degeneration — a leading cause of vision loss in older patients. Current therapy requires frequent injections into the eye, which is highly burdensome to patients and health care providers. Komarova has designed a new eye-drop-based therapy called EBIN, that has been shown to be effective in treating age-related macular degeneration in a rodent model. Her group will further develop the therapy with the goal of bringing it to clinical trials in the future.
Dentistry gives kids a smile

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

About 50 students from St. Malachy School visited the College of Dentistry Feb. 8 for its Give Kids a Smile Day.

The annual event brings together students and faculty from the college with schools around Chicago to promote oral health education and provide free preventive exams to underserved communities.

"Oral health is an important part of overall health," said Sahar Alrayyes, clinical associate professor and director of the pediatric clinic in the College of Dentistry. "If kids understand the basics about brushing, flossing and healthy diets, they are more likely to prevent cavities, early loss of teeth and gum disease — things that can cause pain and school absenteeism in the short term and impact their quality of life."

While nearly 37 percent of kids ages 2 to 8 have cavities, Alrayyes said the risk is higher in kids who live in low socioeconomic status neighborhoods, like those who attend St. Malachy.

The St. Malachy students, who are in kindergarten, second and sixth grades, rotated between educational presentations, activity stations and preventive exams.

Karen Homsi, a third-year dental student in a pediatric clinical rotation, is one of 12 students who helped provide preventive care — like cleanings and fluoride treatments — to kids during Give Kids a Smile Day.

"I have something that can help you," Homsi said to a St. Malachy kindergarten student during a cleaning. "Remember the ‘Rules of Twos’. Brush two times a day, for two minutes. Side to side, and don’t forget your tongue!"

Homsi said each kid is different.

"Some ask a lot of questions and some sit quietly until the exam is over, but I think they are all having fun because they are here with their friends and doing things that don’t normally happen at the dentist," she said.

Sue Jolie, a kindergarten teacher from St. Malachy, said keeping things fun is what keeps her students interested.

"Yes, they are learning about dental health, but they are also getting their face painted — that gets them excited," Jolie said, "and they get a kick out of interacting with the dentistry students, who are younger and more relatable than most dentists they’ve known."

A fourth-year dentistry student known to the St. Malachy students as "Mr. Molar" entertained kids by dressing up as a tooth and carrying a novelty-sized toothbrush while teaching them about good brushing habits.

"We’re here to make it fun so that they are more likely to remember what they learned," said Moein Azimi, aka Mr. Molar. Azimi, who lived in Iran until the age of 17, said he has seen firsthand what happens when preventive health is not a priority and dental care is "seen only as a luxury."

"Preventive care is the best care," Azimi said.

This is the 16th year the College of Dentistry has hosted Give Kids a Smile Day, a program of the American Dental Association Foundation that launched nationally in 2003 as a way for dentists to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children.

"We want to do our part in reducing oral health disparities and we want to provide our students with the opportunity to give back, understand the issues around access to care, and gain valuable patient care experience," Alrayyes said.
Minhaj brings laughs to UIC Forum

By Farooq Chaudhry — mchaud23@uic.edu

Hasan Minhaj — a stand-up comedian and correspondent on Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” — kicked off LOL@UIC 2018 Saturday by asking students for their permission to share new material, on one condition: that no one recorded any part of the routine to share online.

The verbal agreement fostered a sense of community and connection between Minhaj and the audience of more than 2,100 students, allowing everyone to share the moment together. What followed was a night of never-ending laughs as Minhaj touched on a wide variety of topics, ranging from refugees to Disney princesses.

Many of the jokes Minhaj made could be considered political in nature. He attributes the ability to make such jokes, and for the jokes to be so well received, to the art of stand-up comedy.

“For me, I see comedy as a really amazing vehicle to share the truth. And the fundamental of comedy is built upon building up pressure and releasing it. That’s why laughter is so effective,” Minhaj said in an interview after the show.

What is unique about Minhaj performing in front of a UIC audience was that one of the ways he got his start was by making YouTube videos in college and performing for his college Muslim Student Association (MSA) and South Asian Student Organization (SASO) at the University of California, Davis.

“Doing MSA stuff and SASO stuff was stage time,” he said. “It was an opportunity to perform on a stage in front of that many people. You’d get to do it once a year, but it was a huge deal, and it was really, really awesome.”

When asked about the path he took from videos and performances in college to being on “The Daily Show,” and what advice he would give to others with artistic aspirations, Minhaj acknowledged both the opportunity and challenges that the digital age provides.

“We’re living in an incredible time where you can distribute your art in a lot of really cool and interesting ways, but I’m also saying it’s an incredibly difficult time for young artists because they’re like ‘Man, will it get enough likes, will it be good enough? Why should I post this song? I’m not Donald Glover; like come on, I’m not as good as Dave Chappelle, so why would I even put up this comedy sketch?’” he said.

“And I think that stinks. So, my piece of advice for a lot of young artists is to first of all ask what your personal strength is, and really quadruple down on that. Get as specific as possible, and really ask yourself in a vacuum, irrespective of what everyone else thinks, ask yourself, ‘What is my personal strength?’ And then number two, if this is what your passion is, you’re playing the long game. Where you are two years from now, four years, 10 years, is irrelevant.”

As someone whose dreams led to life on the biggest stages — from being a correspondent on “The Daily Show” to performing at the 2017 White House Correspondents’ Dinner — one would wonder if fame and attention has reached Minhaj, but not an ounce of arrogance could be found in him.

“I just feel lucky, man,” he said. “I’ve been doing comedy a long time, so I’m very lucky people actually care. It’s just gratitude, and I want to continue doing great work while I have people’s attention.”
‘Real talk’ with rapper Vic Mensa

By Farooq Chaudhry — mchaud23@uic.edu

In front of an audience of hundreds of UIC students, faculty and staff, rapper Vic Mensa took questions from students and opened up about his personal life; gave reflections on his ideas about race; shared stories about his trip to Palestine; and ended the night with a four-song performance.

Mensa, a native of Chicago, did not shy away from giving honest, candid answers to the questions he was asked. He deconstructed the idea of race by doing a demonstration with an audience member who identified as white by comparing the audience member’s skin color to the color of a white flowerpot to show the paradox in our conception of race, and to shed light on how our understanding of race is a social construction with no inherent meaning.

Mensa also did not shy away from getting personal when he was asked about a bad relationship he was in that he rapped about on his 2017 album, “The Autobiography.” Mensa reflected on the relationship and took accountability for mistakes he made, while sharing how his ideas of love are still developing.

Race and relationships are just a few of the topics he touched on, highlighting what was an up-close and intimate event with Mensa.

The night ended with Mensa performing his hit songs “Wings,” “U Mad,” “16 Shots,” and “We Could Be Free.”

Also in the audience were Mensa’s parents, Betsy and Edward Mensah, who is an associate professor and director of the public health informatics program in the School of Public Health.

When asked about her son’s talk and performance, Betsy Mensah said, “He amazes me every time I see him.”

Mensa is a Grammy-nominated artist who is the founder of the Chicago rap-collective SAVEMONEY, which featured local talents Chance the Rapper, Towkio, and Joey Purp, to name a few.


The event was sponsored by the UIC Center for Student Involvement and UIC National Pan-Hellenic Council.
FÉLIX CANDELA’S CONCRETE SHELLS: AN ENGINEERED ARCHITECTURE FOR MÉXICO AND CHICAGO

Gallery 400 exhibit curated by Alexander Eisen-schmidt, associate professor of architecture. Origin-ated 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

THROUGH MARCH 3
EXHIBIT

FEB. 14
WEBINAR

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY SAMPLING
Webinar presented by the Survey Research Lab.
Noon–1 p.m.
srl.uic.edu

FEB. 15
JOB FAIR

INTERNSHIP AND PART-TIME JOB FAIR
More than 50 companies in attendance.
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Illinois Room, Student Center East

FEB. 16
SPECIAL EVENT

BLACK PANTHER PREMIERE
Movie night sponsored by African Student Council & Center for Student Involvement.
Showplace Icon Theater, 1011 S. Delano Court
Showings at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Tickets $7.33 for UIC students
go.g/Feht6G

FEB. 19
SPECIAL EVENT

A CONVERSATION WITH YARA SHAHIDI
Keynote for Black History Month, sponsored by the UIC Center for Student Involvement. Featuring Shahidi, an actress who plays Zoey Johnson on ABC’s “Black-ish.”
Free for UIC students, RSVP at orgsync.com/63688/forms/304148
Tickets $25 for employees and general public:
go.uic.edu/Yara

FEB. 18
WEBINAR

INTRODUCTION TO QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN
Webinar presented by the Survey Research Lab.
Noon–1 p.m.
srl.uic.edu

FEB. 20
SPECIAL EVENT

“RACE FOR THE FUTURE: SCIENTIFIC VISIONS OF MODERN RUSSIAN JEWISHNESS”
Marina Mogilner, Edward and Marianna Thaden Chair in Russian and East European Intellectual History, associate professor of history and 2017–2018 Institute for Humanities Faculty Fellow.
4–5:30 p.m.
Institute for the Humanities
Lower level, Stevenson Hall

FEB. 21
WEBINAR

UIC JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT
The lunchtime performance forms the centerpiece of UIC’s High School Jazz Festival, as the Jazz Ensemble performs with legendary trumpeter Jon Faddis.
Noon–1 p.m.
Illinois Room, Student Center East

FEB. 22
CONCERT

BUILDING SMART BUILDINGS
Tech talk sponsored by the College of Engineering. Guest speakers include Vytenis Milunas, director of project management at UIC; Paul Beukema, consultant engineer specialist at Honeywell; and Aaron Mason, director of operations at Hawkeye Energy Systems.
5–6:30 p.m.
1000 Science and Engineering Offices

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event
By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

Sociologist Maria Krysan says it’s time to change the conversation about how we consider racial residential segregation in America today.

Her new co-authored book, Cycle of Segregation, aims to inform and advance that discussion.

Krysan teamed with Kyle Crowder of the University of Washington to explore the issue through original analyses of large-scale national surveys, such as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and the American Housing Survey, along with interviews with Chicago area residents.

“Our goal is to unpack the hidden factors that impact where people end up living — people’s social networks, their lived experiences, and the media,” she explained. “We show how these processes — because of residential segregation and because of racial inequality — can set in motion a self-perpetuating system, whereby segregation begets segregation.”

The series of interviews and focus groups, held in 2003 and 2012, involved talking to Chicago-area residents about their experiences searching for housing, as well as their knowledge, experiences and perceptions of communities and neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan area.

“Coupled with the national survey data, these were open-ended, in-depth interviews that gave us rich insights into how people think about their housing options in particular, and the various neighborhoods and communities in the area more generally,” said Krysan, professor and head of sociology.

Key findings include the substantial role that social networks play in determining housing choices; housing searches are not completely informed or objective cost-benefit analyses; an area’s history of residential racial divides and perception of discrimination remain powerful factors; and segregation creates separate markets and flows of information that impact perceptions of both affordability and accessibility.

Krysan, who leads the race and inequality policy initiative at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, says these factors operate alone and in conjunction with the causes that scholars for decades have focused on: economics, discrimination and people’s preferences.

In addition to social networks and past neighborhood experiences, Cycle of Segregation illustrates the way information shapes the housing search process and influences how and where people choose their home.

“One thing that community leaders can think about doing is to work to change the perceptions people hold of their community — to assure that people of all races or ethnicities feel welcome in them, for example,” Krysan said. “But our book also emphasizes that with the more complex understanding of the causes of segregation that we advance comes the realization that there are many potential policy levers that could be used to try to interrupt the cycle of segregation.”

The researchers suggest that policy solutions flowing from their research include inclusionary zoning, public relations campaigns, and methods to curb long-standing economic inequality across neighborhoods.

Krysan and Crowder point to some examples, both locally and nationally, where these tools are successfully being implemented, such as the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and Housing Choice Partners, an organization that assists voucher holders in making moves to opportunity areas.

Imaging may identify women at risk of giving birth prematurely

By Jeffron Boynés — boynes@uic.edu

Sociologist Maria Krysan aims to advance the discussion on racial residential segregation with her new co-authored book, Cycle of Segregation.

Ultrasound is traditionally used on pregnant women to study the anatomy, movement and blood flow of the developing fetus, but UIC nurse researchers are using the imaging technique to identify women who are at risk of giving birth prematurely.

Each year in the U.S., more than 440,000 babies are born prematurely, before 37 weeks of pregnancy. These premature births may cause numerous health problems, including behavior and neurological disorders, as well as physical developments such as pneumonia and meningitis. They can also lead to longer hospital stays and account for nearly a $30 billion cost to society.

UIC researchers, led by Barbara McFarlin, professor of nursing, have received a five-year $2.84 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to develop techniques to accurately predict preterm birth.

“By recognizing which women are at risk, health care professionals could provide early interventions, treatments and closely monitor these treatments to prevent preterm birth or to improve health outcomes,” McFarlin said.

Eight hundred women will be divided into three groups in McFarlin’s latest study: women who have previously had a baby prematurely; women who at 20 weeks have a shortened cervix; and a low-risk control group. The women will undergo an ultrasound examination of the cervix twice during the study: once at 20 weeks of pregnancy and then four weeks later.

There currently is no way to predict premature birth, McFarlin said. However, in some cases, health care professionals know that a preterm birth is likely because of a shortened cervix (the lower part of the uterus). McFarlin and her engineering colleague, William O’Brien, Jr., a research professor at the Urbana-Champaign campus, are taking ultrasonic detection of cervical changes to a microscopic level.

In previous studies conducted in pregnant rats, McFarlin used ultrasound to detect collagen tissue changes in the animals’ cervix. Using the same noninvasive procedure she used in the animal model, McFarlin detected collagen changes in the cervix before the cervix shortened in women destined to give birth prematurely.
William Teale
College of Education

William H. “Bill” Teale, a faculty member in the College of Education for 23 years, died suddenly Feb. 3 in his home in Evanston. He was 70.

Teale, a University Scholar, administrator and researcher, joined UIC as professor of reading, writing, and literacy (now language, literacies, and learning) and director of the UIC Reading Clinic in 1995.

Since that time, Teale has served as chair of curriculum and instruction department and coordinator of the language, literacies and learning program. His most recent administrative appointment was director of the Center for Literacy, an appointment that he held since 2013.

“Professor Teale was a towering figure in the national and international literacy community,” said Alfred Tatum, dean of the College of Education. “He will be missed dearly by faculty, staff, students and community members who had the pleasure of being touched by his scholarship, mentorship and friendship.”


Teale received numerous awards and honors, including President of the International Literacy Association (2016–2017), University Scholar (2013), Reading Hall of Fame of the International Reading Association (2003) and the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (1995).

Teale’s work focused on early literacy learning, the intersection of technology and literacy education, and children’s literature. In the area of early childhood education, Teale collaborated with schools and libraries across the country, and with organizations such as Children’s Television Workshop, RIF, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Reach Out and Read. Bill also served as editor of Language Arts (1990–1997) and the Illinois Reading Council Journal (1998–2004).

Most recently, Teale led the Center for Literacy, which provides community-based services to families of Head Start Children and conducts research on various aspects of early language and literacy development.

Teale was preceded in death by his wife, Junko Yoko, ta, and two children, Alyssa and Jeremy, among other family members and friends.

Services have been held.

Bob Danner
Athletics

Bob Danner, who coached UIC’s swimming and diving and water polo teams for 30 years, died Feb. 2. A legendary coach in UIC history, Danner was inducted into the UIC Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999.

“Coach Danner paved the road for not just the UIC program but for the sports of swimming and water polo,” current head coach Tim Loeffler said. “We wouldn’t have any of the success today if it wasn’t for all of his sacrifice and dedication. The countless number of student-athletes’ lives he touched over the decades is what he will be remembered for the most. Our current team can only hope to honor his legacy moving forward.”

Danner came to UIC in 1965 to coach the diving team. During his 12 years at the helm, he sent six divers to the NCAA Championships and coached eight All-Americans. He also had the distinction of coaching UIC’s first NCAA national champion, Gary Dworski. Dworski won two championships, on the 1-meter and 2-meter boards in 1971, and was undefeated in dual meets during his career.

In 1967, Danner added the swim team to his coaching duties. He remained in that position until 1994. Over that span, he coached 32 All-Americans, had two teams ranked in the national Top 10, was a five-time conference Coach of the Year, and was the 1997 Illinois Swimming Association Coach of the Year.

Andrew Alberico was one of Danner’s team captains in 1992.

“Coach Danner knew how to connect with his swimmers,” Alberico said. “Through his 30 years of coaching collegiate swimmers, divers and water polo players — he knew when to push you and when to leave you alone since often we were our worst critics. He gave you the freedom that you needed in college while still demanding results. Bob made swimming for UIC fun, not just a job.

“Long swimming road trips in the middle of a Midwest winter can take a toll, and he worked to keep spirits and confidence high. Whether it was celebratory dinners after meets, or pranks on buses — he recognized people’s effort and contribution and rewarded accordingly. We all worked hard for Bob because he earned our respect and admiration as a coach.

“His legacy is his impact on the 1,000 or so athletes that passed through his programs, and I am honored to have learned so much from him. He will be remembered — and thanked.”

A truly dedicated coach, Danner also led the water polo team. His 1979 squad was 20–3 and finished sixth in the NCAA. He coached three All-Americans and was a 1997 inductee into the Illinois Water Polo Association Hall of Fame.

The UIC swim team will honor Coach Danner at the end of its season.

Danner was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores, and sister, Patricia. He is survived by two children, Katherine and Robert, four grandchildren, and his brother, Richard.

Services have been held.
The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services is recognizing Mary Case, UIC librarian and dean of libraries, for her 30-year career as a library leader.

Case will receive the 2018 Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization’s awards ceremony during the American Library Association annual conference and exhibition June 23 in New Orleans.

The award honors the memory of Ross Atkinson, a distinguished library leader, author and scholar whose work with the organization and the library community serves as a model for those in the field, according to the organization.

“I am thrilled and humbled to be acknowledged by my colleagues for the work I have loved over my career,” Case said. “It is especially meaningful to receive an award named for Ross Atkinson, who was already an emerging leader in librarianship nationally when we both worked at the Northwestern University Library very early in my career.”

Since 2004, Case has overseen operations of the Richard J. Daley Library and Library of the Health Sciences on the UIC campus in Chicago and its regional sites in Peoria, Rockford and Urbana. The University Library system has more than 170 staff members, 3 million volumes, 65,000 journals, and special collections focused on the social, political, and cultural history of Chicago.

Case, who is also a professor, was co-chair of the UIC Obama Presidential Library Steering Committee, which created a proposal to try to bring the library to UIC and the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago’s West Side.

She was also a leader in the founding of a new organization of libraries, museums and archives called Chicago Collections.

Prior to joining UIC in July 2004, Case was director of the Office of Scholarly Communication of the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, D.C. Previously, she was director of Program Review at Northwestern University in the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Planning.

In addition, she had worked in serials and acquisitions at the Northwestern University Library.

“Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to have had the support of organizations and mentors who have guided and challenged me. I am deeply grateful to UIC for the opportunities it has given me to contribute locally, stay engaged professionally and collaborate with colleagues across the region,” Case said.
Sixth-inning rally lifts softball past Iowa

By Laura White — lwhite88@uic.edu

Down 4-0, the Flames fired back in the sixth inning Sunday to score six runs and a 6-4 victory over Iowa to cap opening weekend with a 2-2 record at the Mardi Gras Classic in Broussard, Louisiana.

The first two batters of the game Sunday put a run on the board for the Hawkeyes as a single, wild pitch and double scored one. In the third, a two-run homer from Allie Wood and three singles put Iowa up, 4-0.

UIC had trouble connecting on offense, reaching base just five times in five innings. Tiana Mack-Miller, who reached earlier on an error, collected the first hit of the game with a single in the fourth, followed by a single for Emily Wetzel in the fifth.

The Flames came out in the bottom half of the sixth and found the production they needed. Lexi Watts and Taylor Cairns led off with back-to-back singles before Kayla Wedl singled into right center to score Watts. With both runners in scoring position after Wedl stole second, Mack-Miller’s bunt allowed Cairns to cross the plate. Claire Crane then picked up an RBI on a single into left, as Alyssa Griman drew a walk to load the bases. A fielder’s choice for Wetzel took the throw to the plate, but Mack-Miller got in safe as the catcher was drawn off the plate. With the bases still loaded, Watts and Cairns returned to the plate and drew consecutive walks to pick up the RBI.

Karissa Frazier came on in relief with two outs in the third inning. She finished the game and did not allow a single hit or run while striking out five and walking three.

The softball team heads to California this week. (Photo: Rudi Ayasse)

Men’s gymnastics sets season high

By Tim Hurley — thurley@uic.edu

Facing a tough road test at No. 3 Nebraska, the UIC Flames set a season high of 372.250.

Nebraska racked up 409.350 points to capture the dual meet win.

“The season high was great, but the excitement was in the technical improvements we were able to make over the last few weeks,” head coach Charley Nelson said. “We had a lot more stuck dismounts and form improvements,” he added, noting the three bonuses his team earned. “If we keep that up, the score will follow.”

Satchel Hudson was UIC’s top scorer on pommel horse with a 12.450, his career high. He finished fourth overall.

Michael Peluso was close on Hudson’s heels at 12.300, ranking seventh in the meet.

On floor exercise, Asad Jooma turned in a performance that received 13.100 points. Freshman Matthew Whittington was the Flames’ second-highest scorer with a 12.500.

“We had a great debut from Matt Whittington,” Nelson said.

The vault remained one of the Flames’ strongest events. The team scored a meet-high 68.050.

Asad Jooma tied his career high with a 14.350, taking fifth place overall.

“Asad’s vault was his best of the year,” Nelson said.

Colby Lawson earned a stuck-landing bonus and finished with 13.600, tying with Victor Bello — the season high for each athlete.

Wes Diveney and Steen Haugsted each cleared 13 points on their routines on still rings for the first time this season. Hardin and Peluso tied for team high honors on high bar. Each posted a 12.100. Hudson and Bello were the only gymnasts to complete the all-around competition.

Hudson blew away his previous career high, racking up 74.000 points.

Bello competed in all six events for the first time this season and totaled 70.750 points.

UIC will compete in the New England Championships Sunday, hosted by Springfield College.