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A case against multitasking

By Hoda Fakhari — hfakha2@uic.edu

What exactly are you doing at this moment? Chances are you’re not just reading this article. In fact, you’re probably reading this article while watching a YouTube video and trying to figure out the derivative of cos(x) squared. Music’s probably playing in the background and your hands are busy spreading almond butter on the apple you didn’t finish slicing.

Now, are you really being efficient or are you, as the late Stanford sociologist Clifford Nass put it, just “chronically distracted?” In an interview with Science Friday’s Ira Flatow, Nass said that people who consistently multitask do worse in a range of cognitive tasks from sorting out irrelevancy to managing a working memory.

And, believe it or not, they are even worse at multitasking than people who seldom do it.

James Hamblin, a former radiologist and current health editor for The Atlantic, compares life in a constant state of multitasking to an internet browser opened with an unreasonable number of tabs in his video series “If Our Bodies Could Talk.” It seems almost impossible to use the internet with only a single tab open, but that is exactly what we need to begin training ourselves to do.

Although single-tasking may seem like a daunting endeavor, I guarantee that it will increase productivity, creativity, and a sense of fulfillment in everything from schoolwork to entertainment.

So, take a close look at your browser, see how many tabs you have open, and think about what you’re doing with each tab. Assess your level of motivation to engage with each tab’s content. Then close all of the tabs that are irrelevant to the task at hand.

*Although single-tasking may seem like a daunting endeavor, I guarantee that it will increase productivity,* says blogger Hoda Fakhari.
Cure Violence rises to No. 10 spot on list of top global NGOs

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Cure Violence is ranked 10th in NGO Advisor’s 2018 report of the Top 500 NGOs in the world, one of the definitive international rankings of nongovernmental organizations. Cure Violence has been among the top 20 NGOs for five consecutive years and moved up two places from last year.

Cure Violence uses a public health approach to stop the spread of violence in communities by detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms — resulting in reductions in violence of up to 70 percent. The Cure Violence approach has been proven effective by multiple studies for lessening street and youth violence, and is being used to tackle other issues, including cartel, tribal, election, prison, school, and ideologically inspired violence. The group is also increasingly being consulted on mass shootings, domestic violence — from sectarian violence in Iraq to community violence in Honduras, to prison violence in England. The Cure Violence approach is currently being implemented in 10 countries across more than 25 cities and 60 communities. Programs are expanding into new communities in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Latin America, as well as in the Middle East, including Syria.

Cure Violence is implementing a new project to reduce violence in Syria utilizing public health thinking and practices. The project is a collaboration with the Stockholm International Peace Research Initiative.

Cure Violence also has partnered with the Salam Institute in the West Bank to create a network of more than 200 trainers and violence-interceptors in cities including Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus and Jerusalem. More than 100 interruptions were recorded within the first month of the initiative, and more than 200 youth have been trained in the Cure Violence approach.

New York City is the largest Cure Violence site in the world — with the city expanding its annual investment to $22.5 million. A recent evaluation of the New York City program from John Jay College Research and Evaluation Center found a 63 percent reduction in shootings and improvement in police-community relations.

Cure Violence recently has worked with partners in Chicago to bring back funding to establish the strongest Cure Violence presence in the city to date. Baltimore’s Cure Violence program, known as Safe Streets, has become part of the city’s budget for the first time this year. In 2017, Cure Violence programs were established in Omaha and Durham, and this year Milwaukee and Louisville are expected to launch their own programs.

Gary Slutkin, professor of epidemiology and global health in the School of Public Health, and founder of Cure Violence.

“Violence is contagious — it spreads from one person to another. Cure Violence staff work one-on-one with those most likely to be violent and use their influence to talk them out of it,” Slutkin said.

“Communities around the world are understanding that violence is a health issue and that this means we need to implement health approaches. We are working with as many partners and individuals as we can to guide and train them to effectively implement this health approach to preventing violence.”

UIC Police join One Mind Campaign

By Farooq Chaudhry — mchaud23@uic.edu

The UIC Police Department is participating in the One Mind Campaign, which promotes positive interactions between police officers and people affected by mental illness.

The campaign, launched by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, asks police departments to implement four practices:

• establish a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with a community mental health organization
• develop a model policy to implement on police response to people affected by mental illness
• train officers and some staff members in mental health first aid
• provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to at least 20 percent of its members

UIC Chief of Police Kevin Booker said the additional training helps officers to better serve their community.

“After looking at the requirements of the campaign, these are just additional tools we can use to accomplish our goal of being prepared to handle any situation we may encounter in our community,” Booker said.

Proper training on mental illness is crucial for a university police force, he said.

“Seventy-five percent of lifetime mental health issues begin before the age of 24,” Booker said. “So, with the population we have with the university, we’re dealing with those issues. And as you see the resources deteriorating [in the surrounding areas], this community is in need,” Booker said.

The UIC Police Department is on its way to exceeding the requirements of the campaign. Officers are working with the UIC Counseling Center to establish an ongoing relationship; they have written policy addressing their response for dealing with people with mental illness; almost all officers are trained and certified in mental health aid; and they are striving toward having all officers receive crisis intervention team (CIT) training.

“We deal with people with mental illness pretty frequently,” UIC Police Lt. Jason Huertas said. “Statistics show that more and more police officers are becoming the initial people dealing with people with mental illness.”

Booker notices the effects of the campaign so far.

“I’ve been here for a little over three years, and it’s been hugely beneficial,” he said. “We can gauge that by the number of involuntary and voluntary referrals for mental health evaluations.”
Series commemorates report’s pivotal role in addressing unequal treatment in urban areas

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

Following the urban unrest of 1967, then-President Lyndon B. Johnson established the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Kerner Commission after its chair, former Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner Jr.

The 11-member commission was tasked with examining the conditions of the cities that led to the turmoil and made recommendations addressing the underlying causes of the unequal treatment of urban neighborhoods.

The group’s subsequent report, issued 50 years ago this month, is considered a pivotal moment in the changing dynamics of U.S. cities and the role of race as a division in America.

To commemorate the report’s 50th anniversary, UIC’s Great Cities Institute will host a week of events beginning Feb. 26 that address the report’s findings and their continuing relevance for today’s urban issues.

The keynote address, “The Kerner Report: 50 Years Later,” which is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. March 1 in Student Center East, will feature Fred Harris, a former U.S. Senator from Oklahoma and the last living member of the commission.

A panel discussion will follow with Timuel Black, historian and Chicago civil rights activist; Eugene “Gus” Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, Calif., and human rights activist; Gail Christopher, former senior adviser and vice president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; José Lopez, executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center; Willie J.R. Fleming, executive director of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign; and Anthony Lowery, director of policy and advocacy for the Safer Foundation.

Admission to the event is free and registration is required online at greatcities.uic.edu

Urban unrest in Detroit, 1967. The Kerner Commission examined the condition of cities, such as Detroit, that led to turmoil. (Photo: Lee Balterman)

Event to examine Venezuela’s political, socioeconomic crisis

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

The UIC Institute for the Humanities and the Latin American and Caribbean studies program at Northwestern University will present “Crisis in Venezuela: Historical Perspectives and Potential Solutions,” a panel discussion on the South American nation’s challenging current affairs and the possibility of a political solution.

The event takes place from 3 to 5 p.m. March 1 in 302 Student Center East.

The death of President Hugo Chávez in 2013 and the fall of international oil prices produced a major political and socioeconomic crisis in Venezuela.

The ensuing conflict between the government of President Nicolás Maduro (Chávez’s successor), independent Chavista sectors, opposition movements, and U.S.-backed conservative elites over issues concerning democratic rule and national sovereignty continues to unfold.

Three scholars of Venezuela, Verónica Zubillaga of Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas; Alejandro Velasco of New York University; and David Smilde of Tulane University, will discuss the origins and potential outcomes of the ongoing political crisis in Venezuela.

Event co-sponsors are Northwestern University’s history department, Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies program, and the Buffett Institute for Global Studies; UIC’s Institute for the Humanities, Imagining Peace in the 21st Century Working Group, and departments of history, Latin American and Latino studies, and urban planning and policy; and the University of Chicago’s Center for Latin American Studies.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call (312) 996-6352.
Lights! Camera! Action!
UIC campus featured on big and small screens

By Francisca Corona—fcoron3@uic.edu

Cast from the NBC show “Chicago P.D.” and more than 250 extras were on campus last month to film scenes for the drama in the Quad.

It’s not the first time the show has filmed at UIC.

“Whenever we have a scene that calls for a college campus, UIC is the first phone call I make,” said Jim Turner, location manager for “Chicago P.D.”

Filming on campus has been occurring for decades, “but for the past two years, there’s been a strong uptick in filming requests,” said Miguel Alba, director of multicultural marketing and communications. Alba coordinates all campus filming requests from movie production companies, TV commercials and not-for-profit access.

UIC’s first big break was in the 1970s film “Mahogany.” Since then, filming for big-screen productions on campus has included “The Blues Brothers” (1980), “Candyman” (1992) and “Divergent” (2014), among others. On the small screen, scenes for “ER” and “Hill Street Blues” showcased campus locations.

On average, one commercial shoot happens every month at UIC. Recent filming on campus has included scenes for the movie “Captive State” at Science and Engineering South; independent drama film “Teacher” at the UIC Pavilion; “Shameless” at the UIC Pavilion; “The Chi” at the UIC Police Station; Fox’s “Empire” at the Atkins Medicinal Plant Garden, and Amazon’s “Electric Dreams” at Science and Engineering South.

Recent commercials for Quicken Loans and Samsung were also filmed on campus.

The reason for the high demand?

“There’s a lot of interesting architecture,” said Alba, referring to UIC’s award-winning angular, geometric buildings. Designed by renowned architect Walter Neisch, the oldest buildings are prime examples of Brutalism. They play well in sci-fi work like “Captive State,” a film about extraterrestrials living in Chicago. The movie is set to release in August.

Other spaces have been used to stage courtrooms, labs and police stations. Location and proximity to the city help lure production companies, too. But the most attractive university-wide quality might be UIC’s push to be a more film-friendly campus.

“One of the biggest issues a location manager deals with is the impact our filming has on the community,” said Turner.

The relationships UIC Police and other staff continue to build with Turner make the filming process easy.

“We make sure whatever filming is taking place doesn’t disrupt any classes,” said Marwan Chehade, superintendent of buildings and grounds.

Marketing, facilities management and UIC Police work together regularly to make sure day-to-day business operations aren’t disrupted either, and everyone’s safety is taken seriously.

“Some filming is event driven,” said UIC Police Captain Eric Hersey. “We make sure our campus community is not startled by it.”

“Everything is a team effort,” Chehade added.

Filming also provides funding to support campus efforts. A contingency fee for using university buildings and spaces supports campus beautification and renovation efforts. Money made from last fiscal year may bring Bluetooth speakers to the Quad or help display student work in or near engineering buildings. The atrium in Science Engineering South could get banners to showcase engineering programs.

“It helps the students and departments,” Chehade said.

More filming requests are welcome. Alba plans to reach out to the city and state film offices to drive filming on campus up and to cooperate more with production teams filming in and around the Chicago area.

“We are certain that there are more people who haven’t really thought about UIC as a filming destination,” said Alba. “We’d like to change that perspective. We are Chicago’s film-friendly campus.”

Productions seeking to film on campus can email Alba at malba@uic.edu
Volunteers brave the shave for pediatric cancer research

By Jessica Larocque — jlaroc4@uic.edu

More than 20 people shaved their heads Feb. 16 to raise awareness of childhood cancer during the annual St. Baldrick's event at the Children's Hospital University of Illinois.

“There is a lot of awareness when it comes to raising money for cancer with adults, and this event is especially great because it focuses on the children,” said Alex Guyan, director of patient care services in the hospital’s Neuro-Surgery Intensive Care Unit.

Guyan and Melissa Angulo, nurse practitioner at UI Health Stroke Institute, shaved their heads after raising more than $6,000 for childhood cancer research.

“We thought it would be a great way to raise awareness for a great cause,” Angulo said.

Benjamin Van Voorhees, head of pediatrics at UI Health, visited with the St. Baldrick’s participants.

“It is such a selfless act to do for the kids, and even though not everyone has been affected by cancer personally, they still remember their friends and family who have been affected by it,” Van Voorhees said.

Many people came to support the cause, including Michael Isaac, research specialist in the Cancer Center at UI Health. He shaved his head in honor of his friend’s daughter.

“This is my first time shaving my head, it feels great” he said.

The Children’s Hospital has raised more than $17,000 this year from the event. For more information or to donate, visit stbaldricks.org/events/chui2018
Exhibits focus on black millennial self-representation, activism

By Carlos Sadovi — csadovi@uic.edu

The UIC African American Cultural Center is continuing its 2017–2018 program, “Afro-Geographies,” by hosting two exhibits that will be on display and open to the public through the spring semester.

UIC’s African American Cultural Center will premiere works by Chicago-based photographer Nathan Mansakahn, as well as an exhibit focusing on the dialogue of protest, created by 16 UIC Honors College students.

Both exhibits are part of the center’s “Afro-Geographies” program, which began in the fall of 2017 and focuses on the intersections that people of African descent must navigate toward self-identity within past, present and future histories and experiences. The exhibits will run through May 11 in the UIC African American Cultural Center, Rooms 200 and 209, Addams Hall.

Mansakahn’s self-curated exhibit, “Black Spectrum: A Closer Look at Black Joy and Expression,” focuses on black millennials and how they choose to represent themselves through their hairstyles, clothes and accessories in ways that resist the status quo and constraining ideas of blackness.

“My work makes visible how black millennials redefine socially imposed limitations, and illustrates diverse and valid ways of being black, which combat the harms that emerge from being boxed in,” Mansakahn said.

In “Pedagogies of Protest,” 16 Honors College students assembled interactive panels drawing attention to a range of social, cultural, political and environmental issues. The panels are a result of an Honors College seminar, “Pedagogies of Protest,” organized by the course instructor and the center’s postdoctoral associate Mario LaMothe. The panels focus on creative forms of protest taking part in the world today.

The contributors include UIC students Berenice Balderas, LaCreshia Birts, Rehman Bokhari, Arianna Brown, Kayla Butler, Anisha Chandran, Ashley Estrada, Elyzandra Freitas, Lana Hishmeh, Dawn Joy, Nida Fayyaz, Jessa Mae Mendiola, Eleanor Grace Ravenwhite, Lucy Schiller, Marla Stamps and Viviana Uribe.

For more information, call (312) 996-9549.
FÉLIX CANDELA’S CONCRETE SHELLS: AN ENGINEERED ARCHITECTURE FOR MÉXICO & 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

THROUGH MARCH 3
EXHIBIT

INTRODUCTION TO QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

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

FEB. 21 SEMINAR

BLACK SUCCESS SEMINAR

Featuring business leaders Bianca Shellie-Robinson and Chinedu Iwuora. Shellie-Robinson is president of Cayden Cay Consulting and Iwuora is a CPA and audit senior at Deloitte.
4:30 p.m. / African-American Cultural Center Gallery

FEB. 22 SPECIAL EVENT

RE-IMAGINING MASCULINITIES: ENGLEWOOD BOYS INSTALLATION

Dialogue with artist Julian Williams. Exhibit includes a series of 13 watercolor portraits by Williams, a Chicago-based artist.
3–4:30 p.m.
Montgomery Ward Gallery
Student Center East

FEB. 22 CONCERT

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 SPECIAL EVENT

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

FEB. 23 SPECIAL EVENT

“POETRY IS NOT A LUXURY:” BLACK WOMEN WITNESSING IN DANGEROUS TIMES

Poetry readings from black female poets Krista Franklin, Nikki Patin, Rosamond King and Tara Betts.
5:30–8 p.m.
Jane Addams Hull-House Museum

FEB. 23–25, FEB. 28–MARCH 3
UIC THEATRE PRODUCTION

INTIMATE APPAREL

UIC Theatre production of Lynn Nottage’s work, directed by Lydia Diamond. At the turn of the 20th century, lonely black New York seamstress Esther fabricates dreams with each stitch. Stuffing her cash savings into a quilt along with bundles of love letters she can’t read, Esther stockpiles hope for the future. But will her dreams unravel against the harshness of reality?
Feb. 23–24: 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25, 28: 2 p.m.
March 1–3: 7:30 p.m.
March 3: 2 p.m.

FEB. 25 SPECIAL EVENT

PACK THE PAV

UIC family day at the men’s basketball game. Featuring activities for kids, raffles and more.
Tickets free for UIC students with i-card.
UIC employees and the general public can buy $5 tickets at http://bit.ly/UICPtPTix using code “PACK.”
5 p.m. basketball game
UIC Pavilion
What is a ‘normal’ blood pressure response during exercise testing?

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

New data from UIC suggests that the guidelines used to evaluate an individual’s peak blood pressure response during cardiopulmonary exercise testing, which were last updated in 1996 and help doctors screen for hypertension and cardiovascular disease, may need to be revised.

“This is the first systemic effort to establish maximum exercise blood pressure norms in more than 20 years,” said Shane Phillips, professor and associate head of physical therapy at the UIC College of Applied Health Sciences.

Cardiologists use cardiopulmonary exercise testing when patients complain of symptoms of cardiac stress, like unexplained shortness of breath, and physical therapists use the testing when it is important to establish a patient’s capacity for exercise.

Phillips, who is corresponding author on the study, and his colleagues in the Integrative Physiology Laboratory analyzed blood pressure response data collected over 30 years by FRIEND, also known as the Fitness Registry and the Importance of Exercise: A National Database, during exercise tests of 1,605 healthy men and 1,312 healthy women between the ages of 20 and 79. The researchers determined percentiles of maximal systolic and diastolic blood pressure for each decade of life.

The researchers found that peak systolic blood pressure, the first number of a blood pressure measurement that tracks the pressure in blood vessels when the heart beats, increased with age in both men and women up to age 60, after which there was a plateau. They also found that neither group came close to reaching the current threshold of 90th percentile maximum systolic blood pressure during exercise to be considered exercise hypertension and at risk — 210 for men and 190 for women — until after the 4th decade.

“The data we saw was a bit lower than what older studies have shown,” Phillips said. “This suggests there could be a valid case for lowering the threshold, especially in younger adults, in order to accurately identify someone with a borderline response who might benefit from preventive treatment.”

The study also showed that men and women followed different patterns when it came to diastolic blood pressure, the second number that measures pressure in blood vessel between heartbeats.

“We found the trajectory of peak diastolic blood pressure with age is different between men and women,” Phillips said. “Women showed a continued increase through the lifespan instead of reaching a plateau.”

Phillips said this variation reflects differences in vascular physiology, like the greater worsening of ventricular diastolic stiffness with age in women, when compared with men.

Like systolic measurements, peak diastolic blood pressure measurements in the current study were lower than in previous studies.

“I think the take-home message from this study is that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work when it comes to cardiopulmonary exercise testing,” Phillips said. “Peak blood pressure changes as we age and our standards evaluating a vascular response to exercise should better reflect norms by both age and gender.”

Phillips believes that more studies are needed before these results can be applied to the general public, as 94 percent of the subjects in this study identified as white and there were significantly fewer subjects in the last age group, between the ages of 70 and 79. Still, “the case is strong for further validation of these results to improve utility and accuracy of exercise testing for diagnostics and screening,” Phillips said.

Ahmad Sabbahi and Ross Arena of UIC, Leonard Kaminsky of Ball State University, and Jonathan Myers of Stanford University are co-authors of the study, which is published in Hypertension, a journal of the American Heart Association.
Educating workers at risk for occupational injuries

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Low-wage workers are at an elevated risk for workplace injuries, yet for many, their employers provide little or no education or training on workplace safety and health.

According to an article by UIC researchers, reaching these workers with health and safety information at community health centers may help lower their risk of injury and improve their knowledge of workers’ compensation.

About 39 million U.S. workers, close to 1 in 3, had low incomes in 2009–2010, and between 2.5 and 5.7 million workers were considered temporary or contingent workers in 2005, according to the research published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine. While these low-wage workers were more likely to experience injuries while working, they also had difficulty accessing health and safety information in their workplaces.

“The growth of the low-wage workforce, their elevated risk for injury on the job, and their reliance on community health centers, we wanted to see how work-related injuries were detected in these centers and how familiar health care workers are with workers’ compensation,” said Linda Forst, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health and corresponding author on the paper.

Workers’ compensation insurance provides medical benefits and wage replacement to workers injured on the job, and employers are required to purchase workers’ compensation insurance in most states. Community health centers serve low-income populations at reduced rates using government subsidies.

Under-recognition of work-related illnesses and injuries by health care providers is one of the major factors leading to the underuse of workers’ compensation. Undocumented workers are ineligible for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act but are ineligible for health care coverage and compensation. Undocumented workers serving low-income populations at reduced rates using government subsidies.

Community health centers may help lower the risk of injury and improve their knowledge of workers’ compensation. The researchers interviewed 51 low-wage workers waiting for their doctor appointments in two community health center waiting rooms in the Chicago area. Interviewees were employed in a variety of areas including the manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors. The reasons for their visits to community health centers included workplace strains and strains from repetitive work, lacerations from handling tools or machinery and falls.

The interviewees reported understanding that their employer was responsible for covering health care for work-related injuries, but many could not name workers’ compensation as the entity that would cover those costs, suggesting that they were not adequately informed about their state-mandated rights.

The most common barrier to reporting an occupational injury among interviewees was fear of job loss and economic ruin. Several interviewees also cited concern about becoming stigmatized by their employers and their co-workers if they were to report an injury.

Many cited a desire to learn more about their rights related to health and safety and employment, and expressed a desire that their employers provide this education. They believed more knowledge would improve their health and safety on the job. However, many employers of temporary or at-risk workers do not provide this kind of education, and because of the precarious nature of employment for many low-wage workers, fear of being fired prevents them from asking for such training.

“Because many low-wage workers who have been injured on the job visit community health centers for their care, we believe the centers could provide a good alternative venue for providing health and safety education and training,” Forst explained.

Liza Topete, Joseph Zanoni and Lee Friedman, of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, are co-authors on the paper.

The research was funded by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
Faculty win funding to use free teaching materials

Eleven UIC faculty members have received funding for their proposals to use free and shared online teaching materials in the classroom through the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program.

The faculty members will each receive a portion of the $20,000 allocated for the initiative, which is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and University Library. The program rewards faculty members for using library-based and open educational resources instead of textbooks.

“The goal is to help reduce the cost of students’ education by reducing the cost of their access to learning resources,” said Mary Case, professor, university librarian and dean of libraries. An Undergraduate Student Government survey with 800 respondents found that UIC students spend between $200 and $1,000 on textbooks per semester.

“So, this initiative is encouraging faculty to think about alternative ways that they can provide that material to the students,” Case added.

The winners will adopt, modify and create open educational materials and use other websites and resources licensed by the University Library. An estimated 4,500 students will enroll in courses where these plans will be implemented this fall. Together, these students potentially could save about $700,000 on textbook costs.

Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program award winners or their departments will receive between $500 and $2,000, half before fall semester and half after a report is submitted about the effectiveness of the materials.

This year’s winners and their courses are:

- Andrea McGinley, biological sciences, Microbiology Laboratory
- Suresh Aggarwal, engineering, Numerical Methods in Mechanical Engineering
- Aidan Gray, philosophy, Introductory Logic
- Theresa Williams, nursing, Nursing Leadership and Management in Health Care
- Catherine Tredway, nursing, Nursing Research and Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice
- Giamilia Fantuzzi, kinesiology and nutrition, Culture and Food
- Sandra Gibbons, biological sciences, General Microbiology
- Zachary McDowell, communication, Public Relations and Digital Media
- Preston Snee, chemistry, Physical Chemistry for Biochemists I
- Adrian Barkan, physics, Preparatory Physics and more
- Trisha Duke, UIC Global, Tutorium in Intensive English

The winners will participate in workshops to understand copyright and fair use, and learn more about adopting and modifying open resources. Calls for new proposals open in the fall.

“We were very pleased with the response to this first go-around,” Case said. “We look forward to additional work.”

Gelila Goba
UIC doctor first recipient of new global health scholar award

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

Gelila Goba is the recipient of the inaugural Martin-Peterson Global Health Scholar Award from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

The award recognizes outstanding OB/GYNs from low- or middle-income countries working at hospitals and universities in the United States. Goba, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the UIC College of Medicine, was recognized specifically for her work improving women’s health care in the U.S. and Ethiopia, where she was born.

In 2012, Goba founded the Mela Project, a collaboration between UIC and Mekelle University in northern Ethiopia that aims to improve medical education and training in the African country, where only 28 percent of births occur under the care of a trained professional and women routinely lack access to basic primary health care essentials. By training new doctors, supporting mentoring in research and promoting faculty development, the Mela Project hopes to establish Mekelle University as an OB/GYN center of excellence and improve the health of women in Africa.

In 2017, the program graduated five faculty members — its first graduating class — almost tripling the university’s OB/GYN faculty. The Mela Projects is also working to improve access to vaccines, cancer screening and fertility counseling and to engage community members and health officials in building health care infrastructure. Under Goba’s leadership, the project is expanding to South Sudan, Uganda and Somalia.

Goba received her medical degree from Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia. She completed her residency at Northwestern University and fellowship at the University of Washington, where she also earned a master’s degree in public health. In addition to her faculty appointment in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, Goba is director of the Global Women’s Health Fellowship program and a core faculty member of the Global Medicine program at UIC.

The Martin-Peterson award was created in late 2016 as a gift from Dr. James Martin Jr., a former ACOG president, in honor of Dr. Herbert Peterson’s lifelong dedication to improving women’s health care across the globe and his role initiating the ACOG Global Operations Advisory Group.

Gelila Goba (center) teaches a group of Mekelle University OB/GYN residents how to perform a hysteroscopy, a procedure for the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal bleeding. (Photo: Juhri Selamet)

Faculty win funding to use free teaching materials

By Franciscus Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Gelila Goba
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In 2017, the program graduated five faculty members — its first graduating class — almost tripling the university’s OB/GYN faculty. The Mela Projects is also working to improve access to vaccines, cancer screening and fertility counseling and to engage community members and health officials in building health care infrastructure. Under Goba’s leadership, the project is expanding to South Sudan, Uganda and Somalia.

Goba received her medical degree from Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia. She completed her residency at Northwestern University and fellowship at the University of Washington, where she also earned a master’s degree in public health. In addition to her faculty appointment in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, Goba is director of the Global Women’s Health Fellowship program and a core faculty member of the Global Medicine program at UIC.

The Martin-Peterson award was created in late 2016 as a gift from Dr. James Martin Jr., a former ACOG president, in honor of Dr. Herbert Peterson’s lifelong dedication to improving women’s health care across the globe and his role initiating the ACOG Global Operations Advisory Group.

Gelila Goba (center) teaches a group of Mekelle University OB/GYN residents how to perform a hysteroscopy, a procedure for the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal bleeding. (Photo: Juhri Selamet)

Faculty win funding to use free teaching materials

By Franciscus Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Eleven UIC faculty members have received funding for their proposals to use free and shared online teaching materials in the classroom through the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program.

The faculty members will each receive a portion of the $20,000 allocated for the initiative, which is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and University Library. The program rewards faculty members for using library-based and open educational resources instead of textbooks.

“The goal is to help reduce the cost of students’ education by reducing the cost of their access to learning resources,” said Mary Case, professor, university librarian and dean of libraries. An Undergraduate Student Government survey with 800 respondents found that UIC students spend between $200 and $1,000 on textbooks per semester.

“So, this initiative is encouraging faculty to think about alternative ways that they can provide that material to the students,” Case added.

The winners will adopt, modify and create open educational materials and use other websites and resources licensed by the University Library. An estimated 4,500 students will enroll in courses where these plans will be implemented this fall. Together, these students potentially could save about $700,000 on textbook costs.

Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program award winners or their departments will receive between $500 and $2,000, half before fall semester and half after a report is submitted about the effectiveness of the materials.

This year’s winners and their courses are:

- Andrea McGinley, biological sciences, Microbiology Laboratory
- Suresh Aggarwal, engineering, Numerical Methods in Mechanical Engineering
- Aidan Gray, philosophy, Introductory Logic
- Theresa Williams, nursing, Nursing Leadership and Management in Health Care
- Catherine Tredway, nursing, Nursing Research and Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice
- Giamilia Fantuzzi, kinesiology and nutrition, Culture and Food
- Sandra Gibbons, biological sciences, General Microbiology
- Zachary McDowell, communication, Public Relations and Digital Media
- Preston Snee, chemistry, Physical Chemistry for Biochemists I
- Adrian Barkan, physics, Preparatory Physics and more
- Trisha Duke, UIC Global, Tutorium in Intensive English

The winners will participate in workshops to understand copyright and fair use, and learn more about adopting and modifying open resources. Calls for new proposals open in the fall.

“We were very pleased with the response to this first go-around,” Case said. “We look forward to additional work.”
**SPORTS**

**Men’s basketball overtakes Titans**

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

Dikembe Dixson and Marcus Ottey scored 20 points each, leading a torrid second half that saw UIC (17-12, 12-4 HL) lead by as many as 17 before defeatng Detroit Mercy (8-21, 4-12 HL) 94-87 at UIC Pavilion Monday night.

UIC will continue its homestand Friday night against Horizon League Northern Kentucky. They face Wright State at 5 p.m. Sunday during the #PackThePav Family Day event; family activities begin at 4 p.m. in the Pavilion Concourse. Admission is free for UIC students with a valid i-card. Staff and guests can purchase tickets online at communityrelations.uic.edu. Use the promo code PACK for a special $5 price.

On Monday, the Flames shot more than 54 percent for the game, and their second-half numbers were even better, at 63 percent overall, and an eye-popping 73 percent from 3-point distance.

Jordan Blount contributed a double-double (15 points and 10 rebounds), and Michael Diggins had a career-high 11 points. UIC blocked eight shots to overcome a game-high 30 points from Detroit Mercy’s Kameron Chatman.

Detroit Mercy kept the pressure on the Flames with a couple of early 3-pointers. Jordan Blount made a running one-hander in the lane, and Ottey had a triple of his own, but the Titans held a 10-8 lead at the first media timeout.

The visitors stayed hot, building a lead of as many as 10 points and forcing UIC head coach Steve McClain to call timeout to regroup his squad.

Immediately after the timeout, Ottey made a layup and Michael Diggins turned a steal into a three-point opportunity. But Detroit Mercy maintained a 12-point cushion. It took UIC less than four minutes to erase the Titans’ lead. Blount made a reverse layup off a feed from Tarkus Ferguson, and later Tai Odiase umped the ante with a reverse jam on an alley-oop from Ferguson. Three-point plays by Diggins added to the 19-3 run.

The teams traded the lead through the first six minutes of the second half. Blount then helped the Flames establish a seven-point lead by scoring six straight Flames points — and grabbing five rebounds — in nine minutes. Also critical to the spurt were two blocks by Clint Robinson, both on would-be layups and two by Odiase.

UIC’s lead continued to build the lead to 17 points, until Detroit Mercy went on a 7-0 run.

In the final minutes, Dixson made a three-pointer, then a dunk off of a Titan turnover, to give the Flames the breathing room to win the game.

**Student-athletes named to academic teams**

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

Four UIC student-athletes were voted onto the Horizon League Indoor Track & Field All-Academic teams: Allison Hansen, Zach Szczesniak, Alex Bashqawi and Luke Taccola.

Hansen is a junior in biological sciences. An All-Horizon League cross country runner, she has carried that success over to the indoor track this season. She turned in career-best times in three events this winter: the mile, 3K and 5K.

Two male distance runners — Bashqawi and Szczesniak — were selected for the All-Academic Team, as well. Both Flames carry unblemished grade-point averages of 4.0 as engineering students at UIC. Bashqawi studies mechanical engineering, and Szczesniak’s focus is electrical engineering. Both were also named to the League’s All-Academic cross country teams.

Bashqawi has posted personal records in a few events this season, such as his 800-meter effort of 1:54.23 at the Mike Lints Alumni Open — the top time for any UIC runner at that distance this season.

Szczesniak recently won the mile at the Panther Tune-Up with a PR of 4:29.90.

Taccola, the lone thrower if the group, has been the top performer in the shot put for UIC all season. He registered a personal record in that event at the Meyo Invitational, reaching the event finals with a mark of 51 feet, 4.25 inches.

In order to be eligible for the Horizon League All-Academic Team, student-athletes must have completed one year at a member school and passed 24 semester hours at that institution before the start of their athletic season. They must also maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20 on a 4.00 scale. The winners are determined by a vote of the League’s Faculty Athletics Representatives.

The UIC track and field team will travel to Youngstown, Ohio, this week for the 2018 Horizon League Indoor Track & Field Championships. The competition is spread over two days, Feb. 24–25.

**FLAMES @ HOME**

**Friday, Feb. 23**

Women’s basketball vs. Northern Kentucky
4 p.m. / UIC Pavilion
Men’s basketball vs. Northern Kentucky
7 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

**Sunday, Feb. 25**

Women’s basketball vs. Wright State
1 p.m. / UIC Pavilion
Men’s basketball vs. Wright State
5 p.m. / UIC Pavilion

MORE SPORTS AT uicflames.com