An Evening with
ANA NAVARRO

CNN commentator talks
politics, past / pg. 7
You won’t regret studying abroad

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

Walking through the busy streets of Madrid, lying in the sand in Barcelona, standing before the Roman Aqueduct built during the 1st century, and walking to school every morning in the beautiful city of Bilbao, Spain.

It all sounds like a perfect dream, doesn’t it?

It was my reality last summer. Through the Bilbao Summer Program that UIC offers, I was able to immerse myself in the culture, history and everyday life that I previously had only been able to visit through textbooks and class lectures.

Studying in Spain for the summer introduced me to so many amazing individuals, both from Spain and different states in the U.S., whom I still have contact with today. I had the most passionate professors teach me about literature, the economy, and another world. It was a unique and unforgettable experience, from the educational and exciting excursions to historical and breathtaking sites, to the adventures I embarked on with the friends I made. Studying abroad was the best decision I could have made.

I must admit it wasn’t an easy one, however. It had been my dream to study in Spain since high school, but it wasn’t until my junior year in college that I finally decided I would follow through with the application process and set my fears aside. I was afraid of airplanes and the thought of being in a country I had never visited. Being an entire ocean away from my family for weeks was nerve-wracking. I had so many concerns, including financial ones, but the UIC Study Abroad Office helped me clear my doubts and find the help I needed.

Whether you dream of visiting Spain, France, Italy, or another country outside of Europe, the study abroad journey is something I will always encourage all students to embark on. Pay a visit to the Study Abroad Office in 502 University Hall. Learn about the diverse set of study abroad programs the university has to offer because there are so many unique journeys waiting to be lived by you.

Studying abroad is much more than a trip. It’s experiential learning. It’s growth.

Michelle Garcia De La Vega spent last summer studying abroad in Bilbao, Spain. “It was a unique and unforgettable experience,” she says.
Vote early on campus this week

By Francisca Corona – fcoron3@uic.edu

Cast your ballot early on campus for the Illinois primary election. Early voting will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 14 to 16 in Room 613, Student Center East. Share a selfie on social media with #UICVOTES.

Voting before the March 20 election offers a flexible and time-saving option for Chicago residents. It’s also a chance for staff, students and faculty to be heard. Those who want to vote but are not registered can register at the polls.

“We have worked very hard to increase voter registration,” said Dick Simpson, professor of political science.

Those efforts were recognized last year. UIC was named a Voter Friendly Campus by the Fair Elections Legal Network’s Campus Vote Project and Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education (NASPA), as well as and the “Most Engaged Campus” during the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

Voters will choose gubernatorial candidates for the November ballot, and vote for state and federal offices. Legislators will weigh in on issues that are important to higher education, such as the state budget, Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and more.

“It’s important for this voter constituency to get out and show that we’re civically engaged,” said Marvin Slaughter, a junior in political science and economics and president of the UIC Student Advocacy Coalition. “To show [our legislatures] that we should be a priority, we have to show them that the civic and political process is a priority to us.”

Early voting at UIC was made possible by the UIC Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, Student Affairs, the UIC Office of Public and Government Affairs, the Department of Political Science and campus student organizations.

For more information, visit today.uic.edu/early-voting-at-uic

Conversation highlights health disparities

By Francisca Corona – fcoron3@uic.edu

West Garfield Park and Chicago’s Loop are a 20-minute drive apart, but when researchers map life expectancies at birth for these areas, the numbers take a dive in the wrong direction.

Loop residents are expected to live until they’re 85. West Garfield Park residents, 69.

What causes this 16-year gap?

For the fifth Campus Conversation of the year, expert speakers explored this topic and addressed other social determinants of health in a talk titled, “What are Chicago’s Health Disparities, and Why Does it Matter?”

Amanda Lewis, director of the UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP), moderated the event’s panel. Panelists included Wayne Giles, dean and professor for the School of Public Health; Angela Odoms-Young, associate professor of nutrition; and Robert Winn, associate vice chancellor for community-based practice and director of the UI Cancer Center.

Lewis opened the event with an overview of an IRRPP report, “A Tale of Three Cities: The State of Racial Justice in Chicago,” which assesses the challenges Chicago residents face and examines how conditions and outcomes vary for residents from different racial and ethnic groups, namely black, Latinx and white populations. The report covers areas related to housing, economics, education, justice and health.

“One of the big conclusions in our report is that far more Chicagoans are impacted every day by the effects of structural violence than by the impact of interpersonal violence,” said Lewis, before adding that the new Center for Health Equity Research, or CHER, is helping to address the issue.

She then highlighted key data points to demonstrate how structural racism and violence lead to inequalities and negative health outcomes. Large gaps in unemployment and wealth rates were some examples. Lewis also touched on prison overcrowding and how more state spending goes to corrections and police rather than domains directly related to health.

Panelists offered some solutions.

Winn, professor of medicine, shared his thoughts about harnessing the power of new technologies and being mindful of their dangers, too, before saying that connecting with communities in meaningful ways is the key to getting ahead.

Odoms-Young, an IRRPP fellow, brought attention to grassroots work being done on the South Side in Imani Village, a project created to empower underserved and historically disfranchised Chicagoans.

Giles talked about mental health issues, stress and the impacts they could have on the body, which could include disability and increased risk of diabetes and heart disease. He also called for more precision in public health before stating that many topics the panel covered were not new.

“We’ve been talking about these issues for 119 years,” he said, referring to an 1899 book by W.E.B. Du Bois, the first time a systematic review of the health for communities of color was published.

How can UIC help? The answer from all experts: vote.

“Local politics matter,” said Winn.
UIC opens registration for MIE Engineering Summer Camp

By David Staudacher — davidst@uic.edu

Registration is open for UIC's annual MIE Engineering Summer Camp, which provides a unique opportunity for Chicago-area high school and middle school students to explore what they can achieve in life through engineering.

Hosted by the mechanical and industrial engineering department, the camp provides the participating students a variety of hands-on learning experiences through design projects that are intended to improve the environment and quality of life. The camp will span many engineering disciplines, including mechanical, aerospace, civil, computer, electrical and industrial.

“We are providing this opportunity for kids who are inquisitive and curious about the world around them, want to try new things, meet new people, and use their heads and hands to solve problems,” said Yeow Siow, clinical assistant professor in mechanical and industrial engineering. “The summer camp will allow them to discover the creative aspects of engineering, while experiencing life as a student on a college campus in the heart of Chicago.”

The nonresidential camp will be organized in three tracks targeted for students in different age groups. In each track, students of similar age will explore and engage in fun projects covering applications of topics such as robotics, automation, coding, energy engineering and much more. The three tracks will be offered from Monday to Friday in July.

A limited number of need-based fee waivers are available. The deadline to register is June 30; each track is limited to 40 students.

To register or learn more about the UIC Engineering Summer Camp, visit mie.uic.edu/summercamp.

Students in middle school and high school can explore engineering through hands-on learning experiences during the MIE Engineering Summer Camp.

Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Fallacy or Reality?

Dr. Marian S. Harris, PhD, LICSW, ACSW

Dr. Harris is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Washington Tacoma’s Social Work and Criminal Justice Program. She is known nationally and internationally for her work as a child welfare researcher and scholar.

The 24th Karen J. Honig Memorial Lecture

Presented by Jane Addams College of Social Work

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 • 4:00 p.m.
UIC Student Services Building, Rooms A, B & C

A reception with refreshments will be held immediately after the lecture.

RSVP Required. Seating is limited.
Online: go.uic.edu/IACSWHonigLecture
By phone: 312-996-4928

German High School Day at UIC

The Department of Germanic Studies hosted its annual German High School Day March 2.

About 250 students from 18 high schools in the Chicago area participated in a variety of language- and culture-focused competitions, such as poetry recitation, German skits, spelling bee, program cover art and more.

Students were judged by a UIC panel in all categories and by consular representatives, faculty and representatives of the Goethe Institut in the final round. Trophies were awarded to first, second and third place in each category.
Despite window repair project, resident raptors return to UH

By Francisca Corona – fcoron3@uic.edu

UIC’s favorite feathered friends aren’t afraid of a little construction.

The urban raptors, called peregrine falcons, have been nesting atop University Hall since 1999, hatching nearly 40 chicks over the past 20 years. This year, despite ongoing restoration projects, they’re back — sometimes.

“Courtship starts in February,” said Mary Hennen director of the Chicago Peregrine Program.

The pair, spotted on campus since early February, are coming and going to stake their territory and mate before nesting happens in mid-March or April.

Construction teams leading a window restoration project at University Hall are mindful of this timeline.

“They are working with us to understand the peregrines,” said Hennen, collections assistant in the Field Museum’s bird division.

Window restorations began last year, but the UIC peregrine pair, Nitz and Mouse, still returned to campus, laying three eggs on the ledge.

This spring should be business as usual. The area where the peregrines will nest is scheduled last for window replacement.

“I don’t see [the project] inadvertently affecting or changing the birds’ behavior in any way,” Hennen said.

That’s important for UIC because the campus community has a special history with the falcons. UH was a release site for the formerly at-risk group in the 1980s. Falcons began to use the building for nesting in 1999. Since then, they have been removed from both the federal (1999) and state (2015) endangered and threatened species list.

But fans eager to see some chicks should be patient.

Although the currently unidentified birds could be Nitz and Mouse, Nitz, the female, turns 17 this spring. The average lifespan for wild peregrine falcons is 16 to 20 years, and Nitz’s last three eggs didn’t hatch.

“She’s an older bird,” Hennen said. Age could be a factor, but Hennen and her team are not sure why the brood was unsuccessful.

Nitz also runs the risk of having a younger bird “out compete her for the territory,” said Hennen. “The nesting season tends to be a little later for a new bird or new pair.”

Hopes are high for this brood.

“I am delighted that the falcons are back on my window ledge on the 28th floor,” said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan Poser. “They have become an integral part of the provost’s office and I’m looking forward once again to seeing the eggs grow and hatch and then welcoming a new flock of grandfalcons into the world.”

Peregrine falcon Nitz turns 17 this spring. (Photo: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin)
Two new health humanities library collections were dedicated March 8 after the UIC College of Medicine received donations from the RIC Donnelley Ethics Program and former UIC professor Suzanne Poirier, a leader in building a humanities presence in health sciences education.

The collection is located in the College of Medicine Faculty Alumni Lounge in the College of Medicine West Tower, 1819 W. Polk St.

“This collection is going to be extraordinarily useful for materials,” said Kristi Kirschner, clinical professor in the College of Medicine.

The library provides materials for health science students in areas such as disability studies, anthropology, graphic medicine, performing arts, visual arts, and more.

For more information, visit researchguides.uic.edu/health_humanities

Two new health humanities collections are located in the College of Medicine Faculty Alumni Lounge in the College of Medicine West Tower.
Our circumstances shape who we are, says CNN commentator

By Farooq Chaudhry – mchaud23@uic.edu

At an event hosted by the UIC Student Activities Board, Ana Navarro, a Republican political strategist and commentator for CNN, addressed students and community members on a variety of topics, ranging from gun violence and the state of the Republican Party, to being Nicaraguan.

Navarro’s multifaceted and nuanced perspectives are a product of the life she has lived.

“I think each of us is who we are, plus our circumstances,” Navarro said.

Her circumstances, both past and present, are what have shaped her experience.

When asked about the formation of her political views, Navarro cited her upbringing. When she was 6 years old, her family left Nicaragua, which was in the midst of a civil war. The experience proved to be crucial in regard to Navarro’s placement on the political spectrum.

“I grew up in a political household. My father was anti-everything,” she said.

“When you go through a civil war, when you have to flee your country at such a young age, it shapes you. Being involved matters. Being engaged matters. Government matters. Elections matter. Democracy matters. That’s what shaped me the most.”

Navarro said fleeing communism and coming to a country that was fighting communism under former President Ronald Reagan was instrumental with her identifying with the Republican Party.

As a political commentator, Navarro is often described as unapologetic and outspoken. Navarro cites her schooling as helping her feel comfortable speaking up.

“I went to an all-girls Catholic school. I didn’t know we weren’t supposed to like math and science; I didn’t know we weren’t supposed to be activists and leaders,” she said.

As the conversation shifted to specific questions about today’s political climate, Navarro was able to provide a perspective shaped by her own life experiences.

When asked about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), she said she could empathize with those affected due to her experience migrating to America, fleeing war as a young child.

“I came here legally; but I was 8 years old. I had no opinion. I had no say (in coming to America), When I see those kids, I see myself,” she said.

Navarro’s emphasis on personal experience highlights the importance she places on getting to know others, and having personal relationships and connections with diverse people and places.

“I think one of the problems we have as a country right now is that too often we only hang out with people who look like us, and sound like us, and think like us,” Navarro said.

And that’s something we have to work on. Being messengers, but also being receivers to other people and their experiences.”

Navarro answered questions from students on topics such as today’s political climate and DACA. (Photo: UIC Creative and Digital Services)
MARCH 14
SPECIAL EVENT

DESSERT DISCUSSIONS SERIES: RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND QUEERNESS

Noon–2 p.m.
UIC Gender and Sexuality Center
181 Behavioral Sciences Building

MARCH 16
SPECIAL EVENT

INTERFAITH AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY
Students, faculty, staff and family members invited to attend. Cultural showcase and live band performance. Presented by the Graduate Student Council.

6:30–9:30 p.m.
Cardinal Room, Student Center East

MARCH 21
CONCERT

JAMEY AEBERSOLD JAZZ CONCERT SERIES
Featuring the Eric Schneider Quartet and presented by the UIC School of Theatre & Music.
7:30–9:30 p.m.
Recital Hall L285
Education, Theatre, Music & Social Work Building

MARCH 16–24
EXHIBIT

AIN’T EASY TO LOVE AND HARDER TO HOLD
Gallery 400 exhibit features work from MFA students Shir Ende, Betsy Johnson, Marlo Koch, Caitlin Ryan and Nick Van Zanten.

Exhibit hours:
Tues.–Fri.: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sat.: Noon–6 p.m.
And by appointment
Gallery400.uic.edu

MARCH 14, 22 & APRIL 13, 25
SPECIAL EVENT

WOMEN SPEAK
A CONVERSATION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT UIC

MARCH 16
SPECIAL EVENT

UIC SINGS!
Presented by the UIC School of Theatre & Music.
7:30–9:30 p.m.
Notre Dame Church
1334 W. Flournoy St.

MARCH 22
SPECIAL EVENT

THE STATE OF OUR WATER: AN OVERVIEW OF THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUES FACING WATER IN ILLINOIS
Speakers with backgrounds in science, government and nonprofits will provide expert updates on water supply planning, water pollution, water infrastructure, water conservation, and more.
8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Student Center East

Send information about campus events at today.uic.edu/submit-an-event
Study: Brain stimulation helps younger, not older, adults’ memory

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

We’ve all asked ourselves these types of questions: Where did I leave my keys? What was his name? Where did I park my car?

As people grow older their memory tends to get poorer, so finding ways to improve it is an important matter of investigation given the longer contemporary lifespans that people are experiencing.

Recent research has shown that stimulating the brain with a mild electric current, known as transcranial direct current stimulation, can improve memory in both younger and older adults.

In a study published online for a forthcoming special issue on the cognitive neuroscience of aging from the Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, researchers at UIC tested these outcomes by having younger and older sets of participants — 48 people between the ages of 18 and 35, as well as 48 adults between the ages of 60 and 79 — try to learn information and remember 60 face-name pairs.

Some of the study participants were given stimulation, and others received sham, or fake, stimulation. Their memories were tested both immediately after stimulation and again 24 hours later to assess effects on memory the following day. Ultimately, the researchers found that while the younger adults showed memory improvement from stimulation, the older adults did not.

“One average the amount of improvement that younger adults showed from brain stimulation was a 50 percent improvement in memory,” said Eric Leshikar, UIC clinical assistant professor of psychology and corresponding author of the study. “Importantly, we found these memory improvements both immediately after stimulation, as well as after 24 hours, suggesting that brain stimulation can effectively improve memory.”

The results contradict findings from previous studies that showed that a slight electoral current through the scalp had a greater effect on cognition for older adults compared to younger adults.

Leshikar says future work will look at whether using different stimulation procedures can help propel older adults to experience memory improvement.

“It very well may be that older adults may show memory improvement from stimulation, but perhaps not under the stimulation procedures we used in this study,” he said.

Ryan Leach of Loyola University; Matthew McCurdy of UIC; along with Laura Matzen and Michael Trumbo of Sandia National Laboratories are co-authors of the paper.

The research was supported by a National Institute on Aging grant provided through the Midwest Regional Center for Health Promotion and Translation.

Teaching antibiotics to be more effective killers

By Brian Flood — bflood@uic.edu

UIC researchers suggests bond duration, not bond tightness, may be the most important differentiator between antibiotics that kill bacteria and antibiotics that only stop bacterial growth.

While both types of antibiotics are used to treat a variety of bacterial infections, bactericidal antibiotics — those that kill bacteria — can be taken for shorter periods, are associated with a lower risk of infection recurrence and often cure the infection much better than bacteriostatic antibiotics.

“Bacteriostatic antibiotics work by slowing the growth of bacterial cells while the individual’s immune system fights the infection,” said Alexander Mankin, lead author of the study and director of the Center for Biomolecular Sciences in the UIC College of Pharmacy. “Often, this is enough to treat an infection; but if the immune system is not strong enough, the infection may persist.”

Unfortunately, not much is known about why the sometimes-similar antibiotic molecules interact differently with bacteria in the body.

Mankin and his colleagues looked at one class of antibiotics called macrolides, which work by binding to the ribosome of the bacteria to stop protein synthesis. However, while macrolide antibiotics are all structurally similar and act on the same molecular target (the ribosome), some are bactericidal and others are bacteriostatic.

Using a new technique developed by Maxim Svetlov, a postdoctoral researcher in Mankin’s lab, and Nora Vázquez-Laslop, an associate professor in the center, the researchers studied the differences between the bacteriostatic and bactericidal macrolides. The technique makes it possible to analyze how tightly the drugs interact with the ribosome and to measure the speed with which the antibiotics can disconnect from the target.

“Researchers usually think that it is the tightness of the drug’s binding to the ribosome that makes the difference between an antibiotic that kills bacteria and one that only slows bacterial growth,” Mankin said. “Therefore, we were surprised to find that tightness of the drug binding does not define the ability of the drug to kill bacteria. “Instead we understood that bactericidal drugs dissociate from the ribosome at a significantly slower rate,” Mankin said.

The presence of an extended side chain in the structure of the antibiotic functions “like an extra hand to hold on to the ribosome; it allows the drug to bind for a longer period,” says Mankin.

The findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, offer a new and previously unexplored possibility.

“The results of this study suggest that when we talk about the mechanism of antibiotic action, we need to talk about more than ‘how tight’ a drug binds,” Mankin said. “We also need to talk about kinetics and the rate of a drug’s disassociation from the ribosome.”

In addition to improving outcomes for individuals who need antibiotic treatment, particularly for patients who are immunocompromised, understanding the difference between bacteriostatic and bactericidal antibiotics may also help to address the problem of rising antibiotic resistance in society.

“If we can understand these mechanisms, we may be able to reduce the rate at which antibiotic resistance develops and repeat infections occur,” Mankin said.

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**DEATHS**

**David M. Solzman**

David M. Solzman, associate professor emeritus in the anthropology department, died Feb. 19, after a brief illness. He was 83.

Solzman received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago before returning to Omaha, Nebraska, and earning a double master’s degree in geography and business at the University of Nebraska. He returned to Chicago to earn his Ph.D. from University of Chicago in urban geography focused on industrial land use along the Chicago River and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

Upon completion of his studies, Solzman joined the faculty at UIC, where he taught geography, meteorology and astronomy full time from 1965 to 2000. He worked in conjunction with the Adler Planetarium and Northwestern University’s Observatory, so that his astronomy students got the fullest experience. The highlight of the class was a camping trip to Kankakee River State Park. Far away from city lights, they could really see the night sky. He taught them to always look up.

His class in urban geography was always full, and he sent the students around the city, finding their way to neighborhoods that they weren’t familiar with via CTA. They always found some treasured restaurant and got to know the city very well. During his tenure at UIC, he was nominated for the prestigious Silver Circle Award 23 times and received the Silver Circle Award five times. He was the faculty advisor for the Veteran’s Club starting during the Vietnam War. He remained very close with the members of the club.

After retiring from full-time teaching, he continued to teach a class or two for the Honors College until 2016. He enjoyed working with the honors students because he liked to challenge them. He loved being with students and credited them with keeping him young.

In the offices of the Friends of the Parks. He was also an accomplished pianist and loved music of all types. His long interest with the waterways of Chicago created a backdrop for his annual boat tours of the Chicago River, Lake Michigan and the Sanitary and Ship Canal. He often did several each year for the alumni of UIC, the University of Chicago and other organizations.

He served on the Board of the Friends of the Chicago River for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, L. Rachel McKinzie; his daughters, Nancy (Tomás Alarid) Solzman and Andrea (Jondeceased) Goldberg; his ex-wife, Bambo (Eli Lewis) Solzman; his brother, Michael (Donna) Solzman; and a grand-daughter, Ariella Alarid.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. May 11 at Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to Friends of the Chicago River, 411 S. Wells St., Unit 800, Chicago, IL 60607 chicagoriver.org, or The Greater Chicago Food Depository, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, IL 60632 chicagofoodbank.org. Arrangements entrusted to Unity Funeral Parlor, Inc. 4114 S. Michigan Ave.

He was an accomplished photographer and recently more than 50 of his photographs were made a permanent installation, The David Solzman Gallery, at the offices of the Friends of the Parks.

**George Rosen**

George Rosen, professor emeritus of economics, died Jan. 8 at his home in Chicago, a month short of his 98th birthday. He suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for several years.

Born Feb. 7, 1920, in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), Russia, he came to the United States with his widowed mother in 1923. His early years were spent in Chicago, a month short of his 98th birthday. He suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for several years, until he was offered an interest with the waterways of Chicago.

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In 1972, he joined UIC as professor and head of economics.

After retiring from UIC in 1985, he spent a year in Nanjing, China, teaching undergraduate economics to Chinese students in a program jointly administered by Johns Hopkins and Nanjing Universities. He also made several trips to India to accompany his wife, Sylvia Vatuk (UIC professor emerita of anthropology), on her own research projects. Rosen authored 10 scholarly books, including one on the post-war role of American and British economic advisers in India and Pakistan and another that compared the growing economies of India and China.

He enjoyed reading, visiting art museums, the opera, theater and classical music performances.

In addition to his wife, Rosen is survived by his son, Mark; daughter-in-law, Kymberlee, and grandchildren, Quinn and Kailee. He also leaves step-sons, Sanjaya and Jaidev Vatuk; step-daughters, Arna and Sunita Vatuk; step-son-in-law David Claman; step-grandson, Dallas Ashley; and step-granddaughter, Charlie Evans. A memorial service will be held at UIC May 8.

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Pauline Maki
Mental health expert wins women in science award

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

Dr. Pauline Maki, professor of psychology and psychiatry in the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, will receive the 2018 Woman in Science Award, given by the American Medical Women’s Association at its annual meeting March 24 in Philadelphia.

Maki, who is also senior research director of the Center for Research on Women and Gender at UIC, has focused on menopause, sex steroids, cognition and mood. Her studies have identified risk factors for brain aging and dementia in healthy women and women living with HIV.

“Earning this award has been such an honor,” Maki said. “Mentoring women scientists has been one of my priorities for more than 20 years. Empowering and supporting young women scientists helps them become the researchers that will make discoveries that will improve health for all.”

Maki is best known for her contributions to the field of menopause and cognition. A central focus of her research has been the effects of hormone therapy and alternative treatments for menopausal symptoms on cognition, mood and brain function in women.

Previous studies have provided conflicting evidence on whether hormone therapy increases the risk for dementia among women. Maki demonstrated that the effects of hormone therapy on cognition and brain function depend on both the timing of initiation and the use of progestins.

Maki is also credited with the seminal study of cognitive function in women with HIV. She directed the implementation of the largest longitudinal study of cognitive function in HIV-infected women. Her research revealed a significant and prominent deficit in verbal memory in HIV-infected women compared with at-risk women without HIV, a pattern that appears to differ from that of HIV-infected men.

Maki works closely with the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Illinois Hospital to address disparities in the screening and treatment of mental health disorders of pregnant and postpartum women. She has pursued innovative approaches to fill in gaps in depression screening by creating a research infrastructure that involves undergraduate research assistants who screen for perinatal depression during routine clinic visits. With input from clinical staff in psychiatry and OB-GYN, she is helping to address barriers to treatment through the delivery of cognitive behavior therapy via the web.

Maki is currently examining the role of vasomotor symptoms on cognition and brain function. She has shown that hot flashes are associated with memory deficits, ischemic brain lesions and functional alterations in the brain at rest.

Maki received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and postdoctoral training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging. In 1999, she joined the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute on Aging. In 2002, she joined the UIC faculty.

She is past president of the North American Menopause Society, chair of the Society for Women’s Health Research Interdisciplinary Network on Alzheimer’s Disease, and past head of the Neurocognitive Working Group of the Women’s Interagency HIV Study. She has won a number of NIH awards for her research and service, is a research and career mentor to many students and junior faculty, and serves on executive committees for several women’s health advisory boards, among other honors.

(Photo: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin)
SPORTS

Flames earn spot in postseason tournament

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

For the second consecutive season under head coach Steve McClain, the UIC Flames have been invited to play in the postseason. UIC (17-15, 12-6 Horizon League) will participate in the 10th CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT). The Flames will host a first-round game at 7 p.m. March 14 versus Saint Francis (PA) at the UIC Pavilion.

Tickets are free for students with i-card. Faculty and staff can reserve two free tickets using the code "STAFF" online at goo.gl/hhTpmC. General admission seats in the lower bowl will be available for $5, and floor seating is available for $20. For information, call the UIC Ticket Office at 312-413-8421.

"Everyone in our program is honored and excited at the opportunity to extend our season," McClain said. "To be able to go to the postseason two seasons in a row for the first time in 14 years is truly special and something our players worked hard to achieve. We're fortunate to be playing deep into March for the second year in a row, and I think we all saw last year how these events can serve as a solid springboard into the next year."

The Flames are playing in the postseason in back-to-back years for the first time since the 2002–03 and 2003–04 seasons, when the program went to the NIT and NCAA Tournament in consecutive campaigns. This is the seventh time that UIC has accepted a postseason bid, and the second time playing in the CIT. The Flames went 1-1 in the 2013 CIT, and the first-round win over Chicago State on March 20, 2013 was the first postseason win in program history.

Saint Francis, which plays in the Northeast Conference, finished the regular season with a record of 18-12. King was the team's top scorer at 18.3 points per game, while Braxton poured in 17.4 points. Braxton nearly averaged a double-double with a team-best 9.7 rebounds per game.

The CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament is a single-elimination tournament consisting of five rounds. For the first time in tournament history, all 2018 CIT games will be televised on CBS Sports Network and CBS Digital.

Women's gymnastics takes second at Illinois Classic

By Tim Hurley — thurley@uic.edu

UIC placed second — just 0.3 points behind Illinois — at the annual Illinois Classic Sunday at the UIC Pavilion. The Flames scored a season-high 194.725, finishing ahead of Northern Illinois and Illinois State. It was easily the team's most consistent meet of the season, as their scores on all four events were within 0.150.

"I am so proud of the way the girls competed," co-head coach Peter Janson said. "It's championship time, and they showed up ready for the challenge."

Mikailla Northern posted a season-high 9.825 on the vault. She finished in a tie for second place.

Serena Baker's 9.800 was the Flames' highest score on the bars; she tied for third.

The Flames held the overall lead after two rotations. Riley Mahoney and Kayla Badeley tied for team high honors on the beam, each scoring 9.775 and finishing in a five-way tie for fourth.

Northern delivered a spectacular performance on the floor, but her 9.825 was behind two gymnasts who scored 9.850 each.

She was the lone Flame to complete the all-around and scored 39.125 for second place.

The Flames host New Hampshire Sunday in the regular season finale.