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UIC, John Marshall Law School join forces to create Chicago’s only public law school

By Sherri McGinnis González — smcginn@uic.edu

The board of trustees of both the University of Illinois and The John Marshall Law School have voted to create UIC John Marshall Law School — Chicago’s first and only public law school.

“The decision to create a public law school marks a historic day for higher education in Chicago,” said Michael Amiridis, UIC Chancellor. “It is also a historic day for UIC, which will fill a 50-year gap in its academic offerings as a comprehensive research university. Through our research and scholarship, we have celebrated and contributed to the rule of law for decades and now we open the doors of our academic community to those who teach the law and those who study the law. We look forward to welcoming the John Marshall family into UIC.”

UIC initiated informal discussions with The John Marshall Law School leadership in 2016. Subsequently, the parties determined that the transaction would be financially feasible without requiring any new state funds. At the closing, significant John Marshall assets will transfer to UIC and the University of Illinois Foundation. The law school’s real estate in the Loop will initially be leased and then transferred within five years. UIC will bear no financial obligation for the acquisition and will fully integrate the law school into UIC after the closing.

In addition to providing current and prospective students with a more affordable legal education, UIC’s acquisition of John Marshall will create opportunities for interdisciplinary courses and new joint and dual-degree programs aligned with UIC strengths in disciplines such as the health sciences, engineering and technology, urban planning and public administration, the social sciences and business. John Marshall joining UIC will also open up new possibilities for research collaborations between UIC and John Marshall faculty.

“When you combine the strengths of the John Marshall Law School and UIC, one plus one is much greater than two,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “The merger of these two bright lights on Chicago’s scholastic landscape will strengthen education and career opportunities for generations of Chicago students, and strengthen our city’s reputation for world-class academic excellence.”

The UIC John Marshall Law School will require accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and the American Bar Association’s Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, and approval for a change of control from the U.S. Department of Education. A law school at UIC is also subject to review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. If the necessary approvals are obtained within the anticipated timeframe, the first entering class of the UIC John Marshall Law School is expected to matriculate in fall 2019.

“Chicago is the largest city in the U.S. without a public law school. The UIC John Marshall Law School will fill that gap while also enhancing legal services available to the people of Chicago. We are already putting plans in place to enhance the program of legal education, build innovative programs within a strong public university, and continue the law school’s long-standing efforts to increase diversity in the legal profession,” said John Marshall’s Dean Darby Dickerson, who will stay on as dean of the UIC John Marshall Law School.

Both institutions have track records of excellence in research and scholarship, access for underserved students, and service to Chicago and its people. “Our shared commitment in these areas guarantees that the doors of UIC John Marshall Law School will continue to remain open to all aspiring law students regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds,” said Paula Holderman, President of the Board of Trustees of The John Marshall Law School.

“John Marshall has a broad curriculum, an excellent faculty, and a long history of giving back to the community by providing pro bono legal services in the areas of veterans’ affairs, international human rights, fair housing, family law, landlord-tenant issues and more,” said Susan Poser, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UIC. “There are UIC faculty who study these same issues from the perspective of social science, public administration, and health care. We plan to harness these areas of expertise to graduate lawyers who are grounded in and understand the context in which they will practice.”

Approximately 900 Juris Doctor (JD) students and 117 Master of Laws (LLM) and Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) students are currently enrolled at John Marshall. The school expects to add a fall 2018 entering JD class of about 280 students. When the transaction closes, John Marshall students will become UIC students and will have enhanced student services, including access to health care services, recreational facilities, residence halls, and college athletics. UIC students will benefit from access to law courses and opportunities to take classes jointly taught by John Marshall and UIC faculty.

The new UIC John Marshall Law School will continue to operate at its downtown Loop location at the corners of State Street, Jackson Boulevard and S. Plymouth Court and will become the 16th college at UIC. The dean will report to the UIC Provost and John Marshall staff will become UIC employees. UIC also welcomes John Marshall alumni to the UIC community.
New metabolic kitchen in Applied Health Sciences provides resource for researchers

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

The College of Applied Health Sciences is home to a new resource on campus for faculty and staff whose research requires study participants to follow a tightly controlled diet.

The Metabolic Kitchen, which is located in the basement of the Applied Health Sciences Building (AHSB) at 1919 W. Taylor St., is a professional-quality facility staffed by professional chefs and registered dietitians.

The staff of the kitchen will design, prepare and package meals according to a researcher’s protocol, then deliver the meals to the study’s coordinator for further distribution to research participants.

UIC’s Krista Varady, associate professor of nutrition and kinesiology, is overseeing the kitchen’s operation. “It’s a much-needed resource on campus,” said Varady, who has experience running feeding trials for her own research on intermittent fasting diets and collaborating with other researchers to design feeding trials.

“In the past, it was difficult to run feeding trials. We had to use whatever kitchen we could find on campus,” she said.

Renea Solis, a UIC instructor, AHS alumna and a graduate of the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, consulted on the design of the 900-square-foot kitchen, which has two ovens, a walk-in refrigerator, industrial-sized freezers and plenty of counter space.

“I hope the facility will be a resource for multidisciplinary collaborations among campus researchers,” Varady said.

Researchers on campus who want to learn more about the Metabolic Kitchen can contact Varady at varady@uic.edu.
Building capacity for cancer research

By Jackie Carey — jmcarey@uic.edu

During the State of the University address in April, UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis told the campus community that under the leadership of Dr. Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, and Dr. Robert A. Winn, associate vice chancellor for community based practice, the University of Illinois Cancer Center will pursue designation from the National Cancer Institute, or NCI, one of the National Institutes of Health.

Winn, who is also director of the UI Cancer Center and professor of medicine at the UIC College of Medicine, shares his perspective on the journey ahead and the many benefits a NCI destination will bring to students and faculty, campus wide.

What does NCI designation mean?

Winn: The NCI is the federal government’s main agency for cancer research and training, and it is the largest funder of cancer research in the world. Designation from the NCI means that a center has been evaluated and recognized as having met high standards of scientific leadership when it comes to cancer research in the lab, in the clinic and out in the community. Essentially, designation from the NCI would mean that we’re doing it right when it comes to both cancer care and cancer research.

We were invited by the NIH to compete for designation because our health sciences programs are unique — we focus on health disparities, we have a hospital, clinics and a full suite of colleges that serve marginalized communities, and we have strong ties with those communities.

Why is NCI designation good thing for UIC?

Winn: If the UI Cancer Center is designated by the NCI, it will be one of only three centers in Illinois to earn this distinction. This would put us among the best of the best when it comes to treating cancer and to supporting research that leads to improved quality and length of life for people with cancer. This directly relates to UIC’s mission as a public-serving institution and to the mission of our health sciences programs, hospital and clinics to reduce health disparities in underserved communities, many of which experience an unequal share of the cancer burden.

How will NCI designation benefit students and faculty?

Winn: Not only does NCI designation for the cancer center elevate the reputation of UIC as a leading, public-serving research institution and draw attention to the excellent care UI Health patients receive, it also helps to open up opportunities for students and faculty. A designation from the NCI would establish UIC among the top centers for cancer research and create a more solid pathway for receiving federal research funding from the NIH — researchers will benefit from this infrastructure and as our cancer research expands, so will opportunities for students to get involved in innovative community, clinical and lab-based research projects.

The effects of NCI designation, which also include significant economic impact, also ripple out to the community, touching housing, local businesses, schools and more.

How long will it take to become NCI designated?

Winn: Earning NCI designation is a long and complex process. This is a testament to the high standards to which the NCI holds its centers accountable. Our goal is to compete for designation by 2021. To date, we’ve taken many positive steps forward on this journey. Most significantly, we’ve turned up the heat when it comes to recruiting top talent, in partnership with various UIC colleges, so that we can be in a better position to bridge UIC lab-based research with the work happening in UI Health’s hospital, clinics and population health research programs. We have also established an external advisory committee to help guide us on our journey. We will be meeting with the committee again in November to review progress and we have a lot of work ahead of us to build momentum and bring in the community.

What is the most important thing people should know about the cancer center?

Winn: We are all about bringing research from the bench to the bedside, and that’s why we have a shot at NCI designation. We’re focused on our local communities — the challenges they face and the screenings, care and cures they need. We want to move medicine to a point where a person’s health and quality of life in the face of cancer is not determined by their ZIP code.

UIC Athletics to host blood drive at Pavilion

Did you know that one blood donation could save three lives? How many lives can UIC save in one day?

UIC Athletics will host a blood drive Sept. 19 in collaboration with LifeSource.

The event takes place from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the UIC Pavilion. Bring a photo ID.

Participants will receive free food vouchers, T-shirts and more.

Donors can also meet WGCI’s Leon Rogers, KISS FM’s Rufio, SaRayah from NBC’s “The Voice,” and more.

Schedule donation appointments online at lifesource.org/uic and search by group code 375G, or call 877-543-3768.

To join the bone marrow registry, call 847-260-2713 or email mwiliams@itxm.org
App provides free after-hours transportation

As much as university students may dream of a 10 p.m. bedtime, the reality of college life often requires students, faculty and staff to keep night owl hours studying for tests, finishing work and taking part in late-night events.

Thanks to the new Night Ride program through UIC Transportation, students, faculty and staff can travel safely across campus with the help of the new mobile application, TransLoc Rider.

Previously called Red Car, the rebranded Night Ride after-hours transportation program has been updated to include the TransLoc app, which provides more user-friendly access to UIC’s fixed and on-demand transportation services.

The TransLoc app is available now for Android and iOS devices. The new Night Ride program officially launched July 15 to provide the UIC community with a free, safe, fast and more efficient mode of transportation.

“The [Night Ride] upgrade is from a dispatch call center to an app-based interface,” said Pablo Acevedo, associate director of facilities management and transportation.

Similar to Uber, the app can be used to request a secure, free ride through UIC Night Ride service. The fixed route system includes the pre-scheduled campus shuttles, which can now be tracked in real-time through the app, as well as online at uic.transloc.com.

Students and employees can select pick-up and drop-off locations through the app from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. when traveling in a defined geography throughout the UIC campus. The geographic area of operation and the number of drivers has increased alongside the updates.

A UIC Net ID and password are required to access the services through the application. The option to call the Night Ride service line at (312) 996-6800 is still available.

For more information, visit transportation.uic.edu

THE 2018 UIC URBAN FORUM

THE PEOPLE’S MONEY:
Pensions, Debt and Government Services

Thursday, September 13
8:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Illinois Rooms • Student Center East
750 S. Halsted • Chicago, IL

For specific questions, please call (312) 413-8088 or email at uicurban@uic.edu
Get fired up for fall semester with campus events

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Ready to feel like a Flame? Get fired up for the semester with involvement opportunities on and off campus.

Mark your calendar to enjoy a carnival with a skyline; see the musical “Hamilton;” cruise the Chicago River with J. Rex Tolliver, vice chancellor for student affairs, and more.

“Our goal is to make students feel like this is a home away from home, for them to have school pride,” said Joy Vergara, executive director of the Center for Student Involvement. The center supports more than 300 student organizations, 30 active fraternity and sorority chapters, student-engagement initiatives like UIC Impact, and student-centered events, which will continue throughout the semester.

“Students can gain experiences, skills and value sets,” added Vergara. “We want them to know there’s almost always something going on at UIC and that there’s something special for them here.”

A Student Organization Conference and a Back to School Bash will kick off on- and off-campus fun Aug. 24. Activities like an Involvement Fair, a UIC music festival with a lineup of well-known artists, and LatinX Heritage Month celebrations will follow.

Any event scheduled through the first six weeks of the semester is part of UIC’s Weeks of Welcome, or WOW, when students learn about on-campus resources and build relationships with classmates, staff and faculty.

To stay connected or for more information, visit the Center for Student Involvement’s new website at involvement.uic.edu, follow them on social media (@UICCSI) or sign in with your Net ID at connect.uic.edu. Events are also listed in UIC planners.
UIC 101 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ACCC.UIC.EDU

ACCC offers a range of services, including campus Wi-Fi networks, computer labs, free software, laptop lending and help by phone, email and walk-in. Services include:

• Instructional Technology Lab, Daley Library and Goldberg Research Center: equipment checkout, support for Blackboard, Google Apps and more
• Instruction in popular software programs and web-related topics through Lynda.com, webinars and short workshops
• U-Print, the campus-wide printing service, offered in all ACCC labs and department locations. Students get a $15 print quota at the beginning of each semester. Funds can be added to the account with Dragon Dollars, purchased in the ID Center, or through cash-to-card machines in SCE, SCW, Daley Library, Thomas Beckham Hall and the Library of Health Sciences.
• C-stop, where students can work, print, recharge their electronic devices with secured lockers, and receive help. First floor Behavioral and Sciences Building and Library of the Health Sciences.
• UIC’s free mobile app includes maps, bus tracker, online directory, Blackboard access, campus photos and video, and more. Download from the App Store or Google Play.

BELONGING
There’s a long list of student organizations, some for community service or social issues, others organized around common interests like sports, anime or Italian. UIC also has fraternities and sororities. For information, attend the Involvement Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 5-6, Lecture Center Plaza, or connect through the UIC Center for Student Involvement, connect.uic.edu
Want to volunteer at a community nonprofit? Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, 312-996-4500, slce@uic.edu

BETWEEN-CLASS HANGOUTS
UIC has oases — informal spots where students can hang out, study or collaborate with friends.
The Office of Campus Learning Environments creates the oases with new, comfortable furniture and the latest multimedia technologies. ocle.uic.edu

CENTERS FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

• African American Cultural Center showcases cultural research, art exhibits, programming and community outreach.
  209 Addams Hall
  312-996-9549
  accc.uic.edu
• Arab American Cultural Center provides student support services, advocacy opportunities and community-building programming or events.
  111 Stevenson Hall
  312-413-3253
  arabamcc.uic.edu
• Asian American Resource and Cultural Center offers social, cultural and educational programs, and peer mentoring. And don’t forget to check out the Pyro Paddlers, UIC’s dragon boat racing team.
  101 Taft Hall
  312-413-9569
  aarcc.uic.edu
• Disability Cultural Center leads programming and outreach efforts to advance the understanding of the disability experience.
  Room 1-148, 1 Daley Library
  (312) 355-7050
  dcc@uic.edu
  dcc.uic.edu
• Gender and Sexuality Center conducts education, research and outreach on issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, and hosts a variety of events and workshops. There’s also consultation available for students and employees.
  1180 Behavioral Sciences Building
  312-413-8619
  gsc.uic.edu
• Latino Cultural Center promotes educational, cultural and social programs. The center offers an annual film festival and weekly events that range from poetry to dancing.
  Lecture Center B2
  312-996-3095
  latinocultural.uic.edu
• Women’s Leadership and Resource Center promotes gender equity through programming that raises awareness of women’s and gender issues, develops women’s leadership and celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of women. The center also runs the Campus Advocacy Network Program, an on-campus service center that provides anti-violence education, as well as confidential, anonymous and free advocacy services to UIC students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking and hate crimes.
  1101 W. Taylor St., third floor
  WLRC: 312-413-1025
  CAN: 312-413-8206
  wlrcc.uic.edu

CHILD CARE
College is for everyone, even the young ones. The UIC Children’s Center is fully accredited, full-time early childhood education for children of faculty, staff and students, ages 2 years, 9 months to 6 years.
UIC Children’s Center
312-413-5326
childrenscenter.uic.edu

COMMUTER STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER
UIC’s Commuter Student Resource Center, the hub for Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, provides a home away from home for commuter students. Inside the Wellness Center, 240-248 Student Center East — behind the Inner Circle food court — it has quiet study space, social lounge, public computers and printers, kitchen and lockers. Staff can provide information on transportation, off-campus housing and other resources.
Mon. – Thurs. 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
312-413-7440
csrc.uic.edu
CULTURE

- Gallery 400 is a free gallery for art, design and architecture. First floor Art and Design Hall. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. Noon-6 p.m. 312-996-6114 gallery400.uic.edu
- UIC Theatre showcases student actors in professional-quality productions. You don’t have to be a theatre major to audition. 312-996-2939 theatreandmusic.uic.edu
- Any musicians out there? UIC has a variety of groups, including string orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble and choruses. Membership is open to all students, faculty and staff. 312-996-2977
- Jane Addams Hull-House Museum exhibits are related to social issues important to the pioneering social reformer. Re-Thinking Soup offers free lunch and thought-provoking discussions. 312-413-5353 hullahousemuseum.org

DINING SERVICES

DINING.UIC.EDU

UIC may be a diverse campus, but all students have one thing in common: the need for food. Dining Services has cafés, cafeterias and fast-food restaurants, including Argo Tea, Au Bon Pain, Chick-fil-A, Dunkin’ Donuts/ Baskin-Robbins, Freshii, Moe’s, Panda Express, Port Center Café, Sbarro, Subway, Tropical Smoothie and more.
SAFETY

- **UIC Police Department** works with Chicago Police and other area security agencies to keep the UIC campus and neighborhood safe. Services include bike registration, after-hours escort and crime prevention programs. Emergency: 312-355-5555 Non-emergency: 312-996-2830 TDD: 312-413-9323 police.uic.edu

- **UIC Night Ride** is a transportation service for employees and students within designated area, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week, including holidays. UIC i-card required. Students can use their NetID and password to create an account at translocrider.com and use the TransLoc Rider app to request shuttles and track them. transportation.uic.edu (312) 996-2842

- **Emergency notification through the UIC ALERT emergency system includes a text messaging system, the UIC website, official campus email and social media and the UIC Hotline (312-413-9696).**

- Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to register for emergency text messages. Registration is free and subscribers can sign up for several phones, so students can register their parents’ phones to receive the alerts. go.uic.edu/textalert

- **Title IX** seeks to eliminate barriers to educational opportunities caused by sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and retaliation. Contact the Title IX coordinator in the Office of Access and Equity for more information, titleix@uic.edu or 312-996-8670.

SPORTS

- **Fire up Flames! UIC has **NCAA Division I teams in men’s and women’s sports, including basketball, soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, gymnastics, swimming and softball, plus fan group UIC Pyromaniacs. Learn the UIC Fight Song: go.uic.edu/fightsong**

- **Student Recreation Facility** 312-413-5150
- **Sport and Fitness Center** 312-413-5260

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Academic Center for Excellence** 2900 Student Services Building 312-413-0031 studentaffairs.uic.edu/ace
- **African American Academic Network** 2800 Student Services Building 312-996-5040 studentaffairs.uic.edu/aaan
- **Honors College Tutoring** 220 Burnham Hall 312-413-2260 honors.uic.edu/tutoring
- **Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program** 2640 Student Services Building 312-996-3356 lares.uic.edu
- **LAS Learning Centers** Centers include the Language Studio, Mathematical Sciences Learning Center, Science Learning Center and Writing Center go.uic.edu/las_learning
- **Native American Support Program** 2700 Student Services Building 312-996-4515 nasp@uic.edu studentaffairs.uic.edu/nasp
- **Student Veterans Affairs** 3030 Student Services Building 312-996-4857 awright@uic.edu dos.uic.edu
- **Student Legal Services** 3030 Student Services Building 312-996-9214 dos.uic.edu
- **Student Ombudsperson** 3030 Student Services Building 312-996-4857 dos.uic.edu
- **TRIO Academic Support Program** 2720 Student Services Building 312-996-5046 studentaffairs.uic.edu/trio
- **UIC Chance** 2080 Student Services Building 312-355-5025 chance.uic.edu
- **Women in Science and Engineering Program** 312-355-2924 wiseuic@uic.edu crwg.uic.edu/wise-home/campus/

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- **Graduate Student Council** gradstudentcouncil.uic.edu
- **Health Professions Student Council** hpsc.org.uic.edu
- **Undergraduate Student Government** usg.uic.edu
- **Student representative, U of I Board of Trustees** This year’s student trustee is Darius Newsome dnews02@uic.edu

SUSTAINABILITY

UIC is working toward a greener world through recycling, improved transportation and energy efficiency. UIC has four **climate commitments**: carbon neutral campus, zero waste campus, net zero water campus and biodiverse campus.

UIC is recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus! Learn more — volunteers welcome — from the Office of Sustainability. sustainability.uic.edu

TRANSPORTATION

- **CTA “L” Trains** have three stops near campus — Blue Line stops at UIC-Halsted and Racine, and a Pink Line stop at Polk — as well as bus routes.
- **Intracampus Bus Service** provides free transportation for students, faculty and staff around campus. Don’t forget to bring your i-card! bus.uic.edu
- **With stations all around campus, Divvy Bikes** are a great way to get around. Discounts are available for the UIC community. sustainability.uic.edu/green-campus/bikes/

- **Parking**: by semester or daily. parking.uic.edu
Real Talk about Study Abroad
Academic Year 2017-2018

- Programs in 87 locations / 48 countries / 6 continents

- 71% female; 29% male
- 62% identified as an under-represented minority:
  - 61% spoke a primary language other than English

- 59 majors across 10 UIC colleges; 25% were STEM majors
- 42% were first in their family to attend college
- All credit earned abroad is toward graduation requirements

- 75% received federal financial aid
- 44% were Pell eligible
- Almost $1 million of scholarship and grant funding to UIC students

NEXT STEPS
Add study abroad to your academic bucket list.
- Surf the Study Abroad website https://studyabroad.uic.edu
- Talk to your college advisor

Come to the Study Abroad Fair
[Sept. 10, SCE, 9am-3pm]

Study abroad is financially and academically accessible.
Visit us in 502 University Hall
https://studyabroad.uic.edu
City’s urban gardens grow sense of community

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

Urban gardeners across Chicago sow seeds in Pilsen plots and Albany Park garden beds, but UIC researchers say plants aren’t the only things budding in these green spaces.

“Everybody knows that gardening promotes well-being,” said Molly Doane, associate professor of anthropology. Established research shows trees can lower a person’s heart rate, for example.

“We’re interested in how it gives you agency, a sense of impact, a sense of changing your neighborhood, creating community,” Doane said.

She and an interdisciplinary team of researchers have identified and studied vital city gardens used by low-income, immigrant and refugee populations.

Doane and colleagues are focusing on three garden networks on the city’s North Side, Near West Side and South Side.

“We’re looking at gardens, but those gardens also link to aldermen, various community centers, refugee funding agencies, anti-poverty agencies, schools with greenhouses,” Doane said. “Following the individual gardeners connects to other institutions and actions in the city.”

North Side gardens near Rogers and Albany parks have many newly arrived refugees with farming backgrounds.

“They’re people from small villages who have had to leave because of political reasons or war,” Doane said. “These gardens have become really important to them because they can practice what they know, what they’re good at, and find ways to live in Chicago positively.”

In these gardens, Joanna Michel is looking at the cultural importance of traditional foods and practices that are medicinal and nonmedicinal, gathering stories about plants that have been passed down for generations.

Stories of mustard greens, which are grown by Bhutanese people, are one example. The traditional tale linked to this plant promotes its consumption over animal products like ghee, a butter, which historically had been less accessible to most farmers or lower income families in Bhutan.

“What people are from, what they do, that cultural training is not part of medical school,” said Michel, associate director of the Urban Medicine program. Michel is also an instructor of medical education and a two-time Fulbright award winner who has studied plant use abroad. “It’s important for health professionals to know. If a prescription is not compliant with someone’s cultural beliefs, they may not take it. It’s important to understand, raise awareness and improve culturally sensitive practice.”

Near West Side locations near Pilsen and the UIC area include mostly Latino gardeners, who use gardens to preserve cultural food heritage, which often helps with biological diversity. Near West Side and South Side gardeners, who are mostly black, are using gardening to change their neighborhoods.

“They’re really interested in how gardens can create a different narrative around neighborhoods like Englewood and create an infrastructure in the city for farming and providing food locally,” Doane said.

These gardeners see potential to provide food for community-run kitchens, public schools and park developments through the new Good Food Purchasing Program in Chicago, which requires city agencies to buy from healthy, local food systems.

Emily Minor, the project’s third leading collaborator from the department of biological sciences, is studying the biodiversity in these landscapes.

“My students and I study the plants, both intentionally grown and weeds; pollinators; dragonflies, and birds in the gardens,” Minor said. Her group is interested in the attributes that lead to higher biodiversity in these gardens.

“We’re trying to build some kind of coalition around food systems at UIC,” Michel added.

“Getting a full picture is much more comprehensive, and we can identify problems and solutions more quickly.”

Alaka Wali, a curator of North American anthropology for the Field Museum, is also an investigator on the project. Paul Bick, the project photographer, and many students and volunteers have also contributed.

For more information, visit chicagocommunitygardens.weebly.com
Collaborators use water measurement tools to understand athletic performance

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

What do calories and ecosystems have in common? Water can be used to answer questions about both.

Max Berkelhammer, climate scientist and assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences, tracks the movement of water to understand the global water cycle.

“We use tracers, which are molecules that allow us to track water as it moves through the planet,” Berkelhammer said of his research processes.

Tracers and an instrument known as a laser absorption spectrometer can help scientists track water movement through plants, the ocean, and rivers or streams.

Berkelhammer and Craig Horswill, clinical associate professor of kinesiology and nutrition, are using this gold standard of measurement in a novel way — to look at athlete energy expenditure and muscle mass, two things that affect athletic performance.

“We know that much of our muscle is made up of water,” said Horswill, “so I’m very interested in the technology of assessing and understanding that, how to measure something in our lean tissue, how that affects our estimate of body fats.”

Horswill is testing the feasibility of the method and comparing outcomes of UIC gymnasts and swimmers.

Athletes are given a fixed amount of a benign water tracer, then blood and urine samples are taken, filtered and analyzed by the laser absorption spectrometer, which is based in Berkelhammer’s lab.

“One of the tracers attaches to hydrogen in water,” explained Berkelhammer. “The other is attached to the oxygen in water. The body metabolizes both differently, so those tracers follow slightly different pathways.”

The laser absorption spectrometer detects the presence of these tracers in the water.

“You take your sample, heat it up above the boiling point so it’s water vapor, and then a laser is shone through that water vapor,” Berkelhammer said.

“The tracers absorb some of that energy from the laser, so we’re able to relate that to the amount of tracer in a sample,” he added.

The difference between the tracer’s turnover rates tells researchers how many calories an athlete should be consuming to maintain energy levels and body mass.

“The swimmers tend to have more water in their bodies than the gymnasts,” Horswill said, sharing what he, Berkelhammer and their students have found through their research so far.

In swimmers, fat may be important for buoyancy. Less fat in gymnasts, however, may allow those athletes to perform better on land.

“Water content can affect your prediction of net fat mass in those individuals,” Horswill added.

The assessment method could guide more research or the applications of that work in areas related to hydration, energy balance and body composition.

“It’s important because this method has never been developed at the UIC campus,” said Ulani Villanueva, a pre-nutrition student and research assistant for part of the project. “Developing the method would open doors for doing studies, improving project oversight, reducing costs and increasing collaborations.”
For many male students of color, having a male teacher who shared their race and upbringing could have served as the difference between success and failure. However, with only an estimated 2 percent of teachers in American public schools being black males, chances are that most male students of color never had a chance to learn from someone who looked like them.

The UIC College of Education is hoping to change that. This fall, UIC welcomes six students as its inaugural cohort in its newly formed “Call Me MISTER” program that aims to prepare black and Latino men as elementary teachers who want to teach in the Chicago Public Schools system.

The program, which stands for “Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models” is part of a network currently operating in 31 schools across the country, with UIC serving as the first large urban research institution. The program began at Clemson University in 2000 as a way to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader, more diverse background.

“We have students who go from Head Start to 12th grade and they can say, ‘I’ve never had a black male teacher,’” said Alfred Tatum, dean of UIC’s College of Education. “They are rarely recruited to be elementary teachers.”

The six students in UIC’s inaugural cohort had to show a deep commitment to want to teach at the elementary level in Chicago public schools. The students, who first had to be accepted to UIC, come primarily from schools with predominant black and Latino student populations, said Tatum.

“We are really creating a pipeline for these young men to go back to the Chicago public schools and the same neighborhoods where they came from,” Tatum said.

The students, who are pursuing approved programs of study in urban teacher education, will receive full tuition and room and board; an academic and mentoring support system to help ensure their success; a cohort system for social and cultural support; and assistance with job placement. At UIC, the students will live in the same residence hall and serve as a support network for each other.

The support from UIC was one of the reasons Cristian Zamora chose to apply to the program. Zamora, who graduated from Golder College Prep, a CPS charter school in the West Town neighborhood, said he wants to be a teacher to give back to his community.

“I chose the ‘Call Me MISTER’ program because I knew that the program would open so many doors for me in the future,” Zamora said. “I would like to change how people view male elementary teachers so other teen males know how teaching will benefit the next generations to come.”

Jesus Flores, who graduated from Curie High School in the Archer Heights neighborhood, said that in addition to the financial support that will allow him to attend UIC, the collaborative nature of the program adds peer-level encouragement, which will help him succeed.

As part of the program, Flores and the others attended a summer workshop at Clemson University, where they learned about the program from its graduates.

“Getting to hear stories of these educators that went above and beyond for their students has given me the drive to become a teacher,” Flores said.

Juan Hernandez said his dream is to teach in the Chicago Public Schools and help develop education policy initiatives that can help underserved students.

“The ‘Call Me MISTER’ program will not only teach me how to be an effective educator within the classroom, but a role model to my students,” Hernandez said.
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All-Star advice at baseball clinic

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

This summer, more than 200 kids learned about fitness, nutrition and education at UIC’s Curtis Granderson Stadium — from the stadium namesake himself.

For some kids, it was the first time they learned to use a glove or practice alongside a Major League Baseball player. Others experienced their very first college tour.

For the fifth summer in a row, Curtis Granderson brought his Grand Kids Academy All-Star Camp to the state-of-the-art field complex at UIC. The daylong event gets city kids moving and learning about the value of sports, teamwork, healthy foods and going to college.

“There’s a lot of different people that have helped me get to the point of where I am today,” said Granderson, a 2003 graduate of the College of Business Administration and current outfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Granderson said he considers UIC his home before mentioning that student-athletes from Lansing’s Thornton Fractional South High School — his hometown high school — were in attendance to teach participants the basics of slugging, throwing, pitching and fielding.

“I want to definitely — if I get the opportunity — come back and always help out,” Granderson said.

For the majority of his career, the three-time all-star has done just that: used his prominence as an MLB player to fuel youth education and sports initiatives, including his own nonprofit, the Grand Kids Foundation.

At UIC, his historic $5 million donation funded construction of Curtis Granderson Stadium. He has raised millions more to make a positive impact off the field, which earned him the 2016 MLB’s Roberto Clemente Award and other prestigious recognition for his community involvement and philanthropy like the MLB Players Association’s Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award.

But at the camp, his focus was the city’s underserved children.

“This program is targeting Chicago’s most in need,” said Christina Coleman, a board member of the Grand Kids Foundation.

Participants ate healthy meals at the camp, thanks to a partnership between the foundation and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Called Grand Giving, the initiative provides free meals to local youth in the summer.

Afterward, campers were welcomed on a tour of the UIC campus to help them imagine life at college and beyond.

“These things really go a long way,” said Bo Porter, director of player development for the Major League Baseball Players Association. “When kids know that people care about them. It gives them just an added motivation to actually go out and do great things.”