

DEAN'S WELCOME



The new term has begun and the weather, as I write these lines in mid-February, is oddly spring-like, especially after the bitter temperatures and huge snowstorms of the last two years. In this letter I will highlight some of our accomplishments, celebrations, and challenges this past year.

Graduate Student Services and New Course Offerings

When I began in this position in January 2012, one of my main goals was to increase services for graduate students, particularly focused on their professional development and opportunities to build skills that would prepare them for their future careers. I am pleased to say that with the help of excellent colleagues in the Graduate College and especially Ms. Theresa Christenson-Caballero, we now offer nearly 50 workshops in four different areas: academic skills, job skills, life skills, and wellness, in addition to a

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO GRADUATE COLLEGE

number of networking opportunities for graduate students all across campus. A Graduate Student Appreciation Week was successfully launched last spring -- with over 500 attendees! -- and it will be held again this year March 14-18, 2016. (See page 4.)

The Graduate College continues to create new course offerings to enhance graduate student career preparation. I am particularly excited about a new Post-Baccalaureate Campus Certificate in College Teaching (CCT) composed of three courses: GC 593 (Foundations of College Teaching), GC 594 (Practicum in College Teaching), and the brand new GC 592 Seminar in College Teaching. This certificate is intended to help students demonstrate both didactic and practical training in college level teaching to future employers. Another campus concern that the Graduate College has responded to is the lack of opportunities for graduate student training in basic writing. A new course, GC512, will be offered for the first time in Fall 2016. It is directed at helping graduate students gain basic skills in writing and presentation. (See page 3.)

With an appreciation that more and more graduate students pursue careers outside of the academy, the Graduate College has restructured a portion of the funds allocated for the Chancellor's Graduate Research Award to include opportunities for graduate students to apply for matching funds to pursue internships outside of a university setting. In line with this effort, and specifically for our graduate students in the arts and humanities, the Graduate College has applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities NextGen planning grant to establish internships for graduate students with 7 partners including the Art Institute of Chicago, Field Museum, and the University of Illinois Press. This effort was spearheaded by Mr. Benn Williams, Assistant Director of Interdisciplinary Programs and Development, and we thank him for his effort!

Budget Challenges

As many of you know, the Illinois state budget crisis has left the state universities without funding since July 1, 2015. The University of Illinois at Chicago has been riding out the crisis better than many of our smaller siblings in the state; however, the Graduate College and UIC graduate students have already felt the impact with the elimination of one fellowship program and uncertainty about the funding of others.

The **Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellowship Program**, sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), has not received funding due to the Illinois budget standstill. Indeed, this program was eliminated from the governor's proposed state budget for FY16. The Graduate College has authorized tuition and partial fee waivers for the 25 continuing DFI Fellows at UIC for the 2015-16 academic year, in an effort to minimize the impact of this situation on their graduate studies. Unfortunately, the Graduate College is unable to provide them with stipends. These students were notified in late July and early August of 2015 about their funding situation.

With the campus and university allocations for other Graduate College fellowships now on hold, and with an eye to the obligations we have accrued for multi-year fellowships, we are being cautious about our offerings this year. Of particular concern is our funding for diversity fellowships and programs including the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship and the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). We will continue to fund these efforts, albeit on a smaller scale, thanks to the careful planning and creative recruitment strategies of Dr. Lunaire Ford, Mr. Allen Bryson, and Mr. Francisco Piña. We are also proud to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our SROP. (See page 8.) (continued on next page)

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Lastly, in January, Dr. William Walden, Associate Dean for Inclusion and Diversity in the College of Medicine, and I submitted a \$2 million NIH/NIGMS grant for the creation of a post-baccalaureate research education program for underrepresented individuals. Our hope is that through this program we can diversify the healthcare workforce by promoting the entry of underrepresented students from UIC and the Chicagoland area into PhD programs in biomedical sciences and combined MD/PhD programs at UIC and elsewhere around the country.

Celebrations

In December, we celebrated the accomplishments of three stellar staff members. James Kollenbroich, Thesis/Dissertation Coordinator, won an Award of Merit; Francisco Piña, Director of Recruitment, won a Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award; and Hilda Tapia, Business Manager, celebrated 25 years of service to the university. In addition, I would like to congratulate Theresa Christenson-Caballero who shed her “visiting” status in February and is our new Director of Graduate Student Professional and Career Development.

In January, I was asked by Chancellor Michael Amiridis to join the university negotiating team, which included my Graduate College colleague, Executive Assistant Dean Steve Kragon, to bring resolution to their negotiations with the Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO). I am happy to report that the university and the union came to a tentative agreement on February 10th and as we went to press, GEO ratified the agreement, which includes increases to the minimum teaching assistant and graduate assistant stipend and university health-care contributions. The Board of Trustees must now approve the agreement.

Final Request

With the state budget crisis and likely cuts to any future funding to the university, our graduate students need your help more than ever to fund their education. Please consider donating to the Graduate College in support of graduate student fellowships and career development awards at <http://grad.uic.edu/giving>

Happy Spring!

Karen J. Colley
Dean and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics



The winning entry, by anthropology doctoral student David Reid, shows glyphs that may depict shamans who protected desert travelers in Peru.

Image of Research Captures Beauty of Grad Students’ Work

The first-place winner of the eighth annual Image of Research competition found an eerie but enlightening way to present his photos of petroglyphs along prehistoric roads in southern Peru — glyphs that may depict shamans who protect desert travelers.

“I utilize image manipulation software to invert and adjust the colors to better define the petroglyphs. In so doing, animals such as birds and mountain cats emerge from the darkness alongside geometric designs and humans with outstretched hands,” said David Reid, a doctoral student in anthropology, in describing his work.

The competition, sponsored by the Graduate College and the UIC Library, asks graduate and professional students to enter still or video images that illuminate aspects of their research. This year, seven jurors evaluated 75 submissions on originality, relationship to the student’s research and aesthetic quality. To ensure a broad understanding of the subject matter, the jurors came from art and design, anatomy, anthropology, computer science, mathematics, and the library.

“The wide range of submissions from across campus demonstrates the diverse areas of research in UIC’s graduate programs,” (continued on page 5)



Benjamin Alsip’s entry shows researchers gathering data in Antarctica. “The beauty of our surroundings was inextricable from their harsh reality,” he says.

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Graduate College Certificate in College Teaching

GC 512: Written Communication and Presentation Skills

In 2013, the Senate Committee on Academic Services heard a concern about the lack of sufficient writing support on campus for UIC graduate students. The Senate Committee on Academic Services formed a subcommittee of Sandy De Groote (University Library), Alexander Eisenschmidt (Architecture), and Babette Neuberger (School of Public Health) to address this concern, who then invited Michelle Boyd (African-American Studies), Lisa Freeman (English), and Benn Williams (Graduate College) to help to define writing needs, develop and distribute two surveys, and to investigate graduate writing support at other institutions. Their final report to the Senate, in February, 2014, recommended an increase in staffing (using graduate students to help graduate students) to the current Writing Center. Dean Karen Colley provided a letter of support and the Senate formally accepted the proposal.

**GC 512:
Written Communication
and Presentation Skills
(3 credit hours)**

**Target audience:
Continuing PhD students
in STEM fields**

Interim Provost Eric Gisalson endorsed the spirit of the recommendation, but, citing budgetary constraints, he encouraged the Graduate College to take a first step by developing a single course to meet many graduate students' needs. Internal discussions led to the creation of GC 512 "Written Communication and Presentation Skills."

Pending final approval, the Graduate College anticipates that the three-credit-hour elective course will be offered both fall and spring semesters. The course will seek to rectify self- and faculty-identified weaknesses in academic writing by analyzing and practicing writing academic English on several levels: word, sentence, paragraph, and process. Initially, registration will be restricted: permission of the instructor (following an emailed request by the student's Director of Graduate Studies), advanced status (~32 graduate credit hours in the student's program), and study in a STEM field.

If successful, and staffing permits, more sections would be added and restrictions modified. Questions may be addressed to Benn Williams (bwilli7@uic.edu).

Pending final approval by the UIC Senate in April, the Graduate College will offer a post-baccalaureate, campus certificate in college instruction, effective Fall 2016.

In Fall 2013, the Graduate College began offering GC 593 "Foundations of College Teaching" (3 hours). This course has been offered four times, with an average of 20 students registered. A second course, GC 594 "Practicum in College Teaching" (3 hours) was added and it had 11 students in its inaugural semester, Spring 2015. The new certificate will be comprised of these two courses and a new course, GC 592 "Seminar in College Teaching" (3 hours).

Combining the three courses, the certificate provides the necessary background for a graduate student, regardless of disciplinary training, to develop into an effective teacher. The courses are meant to meet the following goals:

1. Introduce student engagement approaches consistent with the campus mission.
2. Meet the occupational and student demand for knowledge, skills and competencies for the role of a college educator.
3. Serve the undergraduate mission by providing graduate students approaches and tools they can use in the classroom.
4. Set a standard of preparation that graduate students may use in future professional contexts, especially for obtaining tenure-track faculty positions.
5. Establish graduate student teaching as a priority on campus.
6. Provide practical opportunities that benefit all departments where participating graduate students are teaching.

It is well established that graduate students and postdocs are often not properly trained to teach at the college level. Being an expert on a topic and effectively communicating that expertise to others requires different skills. Typically, graduate students are given a teaching orientation in their department. In those few hours, they are not adequately exposed to techniques and pedagogy of teaching. Through trial and error, some students develop into effective teachers, while others do not. The majority of tenured and tenure-track professors will state that they never received training on how to teach at the college level while in graduate school.

Graduates of PhD programs desiring a position within the academy, on or off the tenure track, face an increasingly competitive job market. Teaching-oriented institutions demand evidence of the ability to teach at the college level. Even candidates for positions at research universities are increasingly required to show teaching experience. (Some applicants to PhD programs at UIC that do not use teaching assistantships have declined fully-funded admission offers because of the lack of teaching opportunities.) In spite of these difficulties, many UIC graduates do get placed into tenure-track positions, at both major research universities and at teaching institutions.



John Coumbe-Lilley, Clinical Associate Professor of Kinesiology and architect of the new certificate.

The courses under this certificate will provide the necessary background for teaching assistants and postdoctoral trainees to develop into excellent educators at the college level. This certificate will enhance a candidate's CV/résumé and make them more competitive for university and college faculty positions.

Students who have taken GC 593 and/or GC 594 prior to Fall 2016, and who wish to complete the certificate, will be allowed to apply to the certificate and use the previously taken courses. Application and other information will be added to the Graduate College website once final approval for the certificate is granted.

**Graduate College
(Campus) Certificate
in College Teaching:**

**GC 592: Seminar in College
Teaching (3 hours)**
+
**GC 593: Foundations of College
Teaching (3 hours)**
+
**GC 594: Practicum in College
Teaching (3 hours)**

**Target audience:
Future college instructors**

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, NO IT'S

UIC GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK 3/14-3/18

MONDAY MARCH 14TH

- 10:00-11:15 Superhero Graduate Student Breakfast Kick Off Event, 650 UH #
12:15-1:15 10 Minutes to Zen: Learning & Practice 10 Min Meditations, SSB 2790
3:00-4:00 Grant Writing Dos & Don'ts: Quick Tips for a Better Proposal, SSB 2790
4:00-5:30 What Is Your Gameplan? Beginning a Plan for your Professional Development, SSB 2790

TUESDAY MARCH 15TH

- 9:00-11:30 Drop in Writing Hours & Coffee, SSB 2790
12:00-2:30 Free Chair Massage & Other De-stress Activities, SSB 2790
4:00-5:30 Graduate Student Wellness: Killer Chemicals, SSB 2790

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH

- 10:00-11:15 Wham! Bam! West Side Bagel Party, GEMS Library 317 #
12:30-2:00 Winning the Money! How to Submit a Successful Fellowship Application, SSB 2790
4:00-5:00 Interviewing and Negotiation Workshop, SSB 2790
5:30-7:00 **Life Beyond (and Outside) the Tenure Track: An #Alt-Academy Career Discussion with Dr. Heather Brown, SSB Location TBA#**

THURSDAY MARCH 17TH

- 12:00-1:00 Improv for Professional Networking, SSB 2790
3:30-5:00 Free Strengths Quest Assessment: Discover and Develop Your Strengths to Achieve Career and Professional Success, SSB 2790
5:30-7:00 Pitching Your Skills, SSB 2790

FRIDAY MARCH 18TH

- 11:00-1:00 Free Professional Headshots, 650 University Hall
4:00-6:00 Family Movie Night *The Incredibles*, B2 Latino Cultural Center #

To register for all sessions visit: <http://grad.uic.edu/graduate-college-events-and-workshops>

For questions or specific accommodations please contact (312)355-2137

Denotes programs where refreshments will be served

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

ITA Program Continues to Grow

Since 1992, the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Program has been responsible for ensuring that all ITAs are orally proficient in English before they receive instructional responsibilities. This policy was established to comply with Illinois State law. The policy also promotes improved undergraduate student success through better instruction.

Under the coordination of Vandana Loebel over the past four years, a new policy for oral proficiency assessment has been implemented and used to screen over 500 students. The number of departments assessed by the ITA program has increased by 44%. In addition to the initial screening, the ITA program offers English-support courses and organizes the annual ITA orientation.

With the support of the Office of International Services and the Graduate College, the fourth annual ITA Orientation was held on Friday, August 14, 2015 with over 100 ITAs in attendance. The five-hour orientation included graduate students from six different departments sharing their insights and experiences. Lecturer-led workshops provided hands-on communication practice to help ITAs on their first day of class and beyond.

The ITA Program developed two new English-support courses in the Graduate College: GC 510 and GC 511. These courses teach ITAs English pronunciation, cross-cultural communication, and instructional skills for the classroom. Now both courses are offered simultaneously, increasing our capacity to meet the varying needs of all

new and returning ITAs. With an increase of 20% from the previous fall semester, Fall 2015 saw record enrollment. Overall, students have responded positively to the courses, reporting that they are much more prepared to teach.

Recent staff additions:

- Two Graduate Assistants from the Department of Linguistics, Brian Rocca and Allison Lewis, were hired by the Graduate College in Summer 2015 to rate the large number of oral proficiency assessments conducted at the beginning of the semester.
- Lecturer, Cody Cranch, was hired in Fall 2015 to teach the newly-developed GC 510 course.

Recent staff accomplishments:

- Teaching Assistant Kim Hansen received the Illinois TESOL-BE Graduate Scholarship Award this January.
- Lecturer Jen Taylor presented at the Illinois TESOL-BE Convention this February.
- Coordinator Vandana Loebel will present at the International TESOL Convention this April.



The ITA staff. Back row from left to right: Brian Rocca (GA), Allison Lewis (GA), Cody Cranch (Lecturer); front row L-R: Kim Hansen (TA), Vandana Loebel (Program Coordinator), and Jennifer Taylor (Lecturer).

grad.uic.edu/international-teaching-assistants-program-home-page

IMAGE OF RESEARCH

(Continued from page 2)

said Kevin Monahan, director of graduate program review and information systems and coordinator of the competition.

Second place went to a photo taken at Canada Glacier in Antarctica, where Benjamin Alsip gathers data showing how ice-covered



lakes are responding to climate change. "In some conditions you had less than a minute to complete a task before your fingers were useless, so the beauty of our surroundings was inextricable from their harsh reality," said Alsip, a master's student in earth and environmental science.

The third-place image depicted a great blue heron with an American flag caught around its beak. The photo, by Mason Fidino, a doctoral student in biological sciences, was taken at a Lincoln Park pond.

"This image truly illustrates some of the costs associated to human-dominated habitats," Fidino said, adding, "I never did find out what exactly happened to this bird."

Mason Fidino captured an image of a great blue heron with a flag caught on its beak, saying, "I never did find out what happened to this bird."

The two moving image winners were animations created by students in biomedical visualization. Melissa Zachritz, the first-place winner, created a visualization of glabridin, a phytoestrogen. Robert Shonk was awarded second place for an excerpt of his digital reconstruction from fossils of the skull of a crocodile ancestor, TyrantCroc. Honorable mentions include the art and technology of a letterpress studio, midnight sunlight during an Antarctica summer, and brain connections as visualized in virtual reality. The 17 finalist entries are online.

An earlier version of this article by Anne Brooks Ranallo appeared in UIC News on September 22, 2015. Used with permission.

The deadline for the 2016 UIC Image of Research competition is May 31st. For more information, visit grad.uic.edu/image-research-guidelines



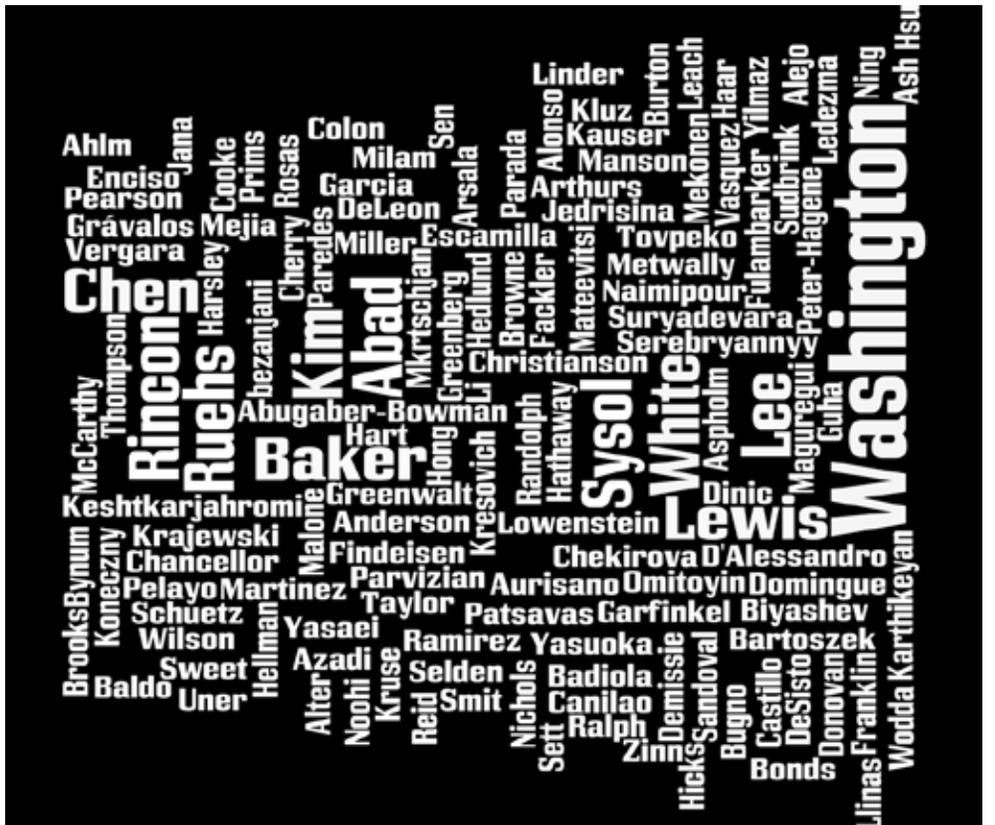
Images, from top to bottom: Chancellor Michael Amiridis charmed the Fellowship Reception; winners of Graduate College awards and fellowships for academic year 2015-2016; mingling at the Fellowship Reception.

Annual Fellowship Reception

The annual Graduate College Fellowship Reception was held on January 22, 2016 on the 28th floor of University Hall. In attendance were recipients of the Graduate College's fellowships (Abraham Lincoln, Dean's Scholar, and University), the Chancellor's Graduate Research Award, and Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship. Winners of prestigious external awards were also celebrated.

Dean Karen J. Colley, Associate Dean Laura L. Junker, and Fellowship Coordinator Marie Khan welcomed the hundred or so honored students, advisors, directors of graduate study, and support staff. Chancellor Michael Amiridis was the keynote speaker and he charmed the crowd with his humor and enthusiasm for graduate education and research.

For more information about Graduate College awards and fellowships, visit grad.uic.edu/graduate-college-fellowship-and-award-deadlines



STELLAR STAFF

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Visit the Graduate College's LinkedIn site for a curated selection of news, opinion, and advice pieces; visit us on Twitter to keep abreast of breaking news and events.



Three stellar staff members. From left to right: James Kollenbroich (Merit Award), Hilda Tapia (25 Years of Service), and Francisco Piña (CAPE Award).



Kollenbroich wins Award of Merit

The Graduate College's Thesis/Dissertation Coordinator, Dr. James Kollenbroich, won a 2015 UIC Award of Merit. This award honors civil service and academic professional employees who demonstrate overall excellence, consistent service, and creativity in problem-solving and initiative. Kollenbroich is one of only 30 people so honored this year.

An alumnus of the Graduate College (History), Jim has handled theses and dissertations for the Graduate College since 2003, and now other functions as well, including serving as the UIC coordinator for the Chicago Metropolitan Exchange Program. In the words of one referee, Jim is a "dedicated, highly conscientious, and highly dedicated professional." Outside of the Graduate College, he is a published author, college instructor, and stage actor. Glückwünsche!



Piña wins CAPE AWARD

Francisco Piña, the Graduate College's Director of Recruitment, won a 2015 Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award. Established in 1988 to recognize excellence of Academic Professional employees, the CAPE Award encourages professional development and indicates the institution's high regard for the contributions of this important (and shrinking) segment of the UIC community.

One of six such awardees, Piña's nomination by a former student was truly a campus-wide effort. ¡Felicidades!



Christenson-Caballero Named Director

In February, 2016, the Graduate College's Theresa Christenson-Caballero shed her "visiting" title. She is now Director of Graduate Student Professional and Career Development. As demonstrated elsewhere on these pages, she works tirelessly for the benefit of graduate students.

In addition, she is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Latin American and Latino/a Studies. A strong advocate of marginalized communities, she is Co-Chair of the UIC's Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latina/os and last year she won the Ally Award from the UIC Gender and Sexuality Center and served as an Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) Leadership Institute Fellow. Brava!

grad.uic.edu/giving

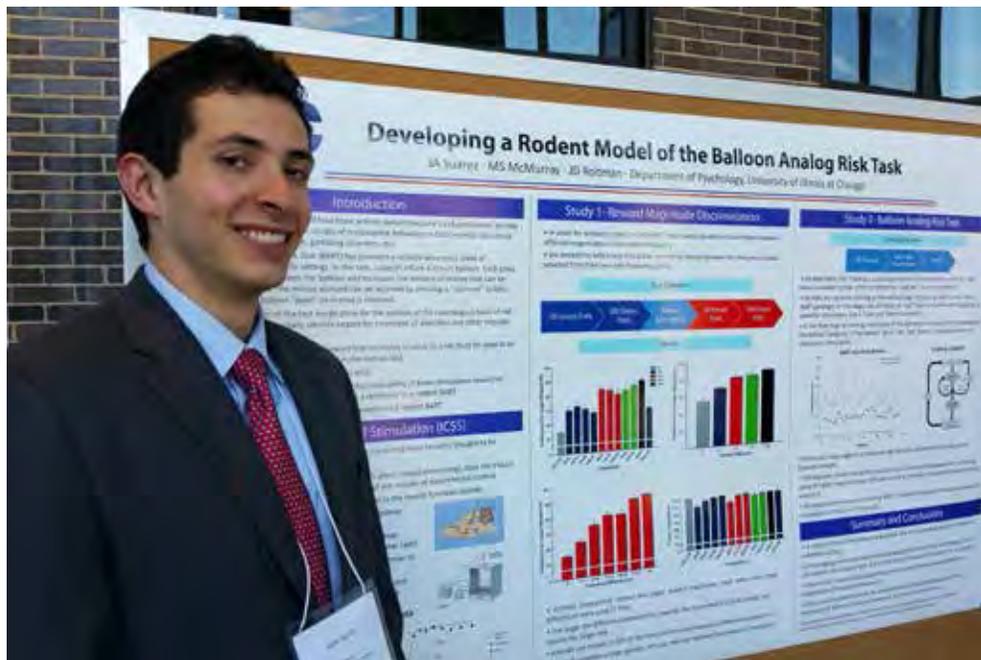
Congratulations to New December Alumni!

On December 11, 2015, University of Illinois at Chicago held its first winter commencement ceremony to honor students who graduated after the summer and fall semesters. The President and CEO of the Field Museum of Natural History, Richard Lariviere, PhD, gave a rousing speech at the Graduate College commencement. With many summer and fall graduates unable to attend May festivities, Chancellor

Michael Amiridis sought another formal means of celebrating their success. Dean Karen Colley remarked, "I think it was a success! Speakers at both the undergraduate and the graduate commencements were excellent."

Students eligible to walk in December included 133 doctoral students, 291 master's students, 7 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) certificate recipients,

and 137 campus certificate recipients from the summer term as well as 78 doctoral students, 455 master's students, 17 Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) certificates, and 53 campus certificate recipients. By comparison, the May, 2015 commencement honored 100 doctoral students, 919 master's students, 12 IBHE certificate recipients, and 182 campus certificate winners. Over 1500 people have applied to the Graduate College to graduate in the Spring of 2016.



SROP scholar Jaiver Suarez presents his research poster at the Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum, April 15, 2015.

Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum

The Graduate College is an active participant in the planning and support of the Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum. Intended to showcase the scholarly work of underrepresented students from Illinois, the forum seeks to increase faculty-student research collaborations; facilitate mentoring relationships between faculty and students of color; increase the persistence of underrepresented students in academia; and enhance their research. Over the last decade, more than 100 UIC students of all academic levels have presented at IALHEA.

This year's IALHEA is entitled "Healthy Communities: Social Determinants of Health" and it will be held 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on April 6, 2016 in the Illinois Room of Student Center East (750 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL). Guest speakers include Roberto Gonzales, PhD (Harvard) and Michael Winn, MD (UIC). Please come and support our presenters and meet our guests. To register, visit: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?Reg?llr=7uawahcab&oeidk=a07ec3x916328351cd3>

Dr. Lunaire Ford, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Recruitment, is the Graduate College Contact for the IALHEA Planning Committee. He can be contacted at lford@uic.edu. General questions can be directed to ialheadiversity@gmail.com or visit the website: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec3x916328351cd3&llr=7uawahcab>

Learn more about SROP at grad.uic.edu/summer-research-opportunities-program-undergraduates -- or email Allen Bryson at ajbryson@uic.edu

Summer Research Opportunities Program Celebrates 30 Years

The Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) celebrates thirty years of scholarship and service on the UIC campus this year. Since 1986, SROP has trained, developed, and prepared over twelve hundred talented undergraduates for graduate study. UIC's program has served not only its own students, but also students from all over the country, ranging from the Ivy League, Big Ten, and Pac 12, to Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Many of SROP at UIC alumni have become faculty members at institutions such as Northwestern University, the Uni-

versity of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of California, San Francisco, as well as UIC.

Our staff has gathered outcome data from the last five SROP cohorts (2010-2014), totaling approximately 185 scholars with whom the program was able to remain in contact. Many SROP alumni are still enrolled in their undergraduate degree program. We are pleased to report that over seventy percent (70%) of those who have graduated are enrolled in post-baccalaureate degree programs or have completed their graduate degree. Several are either currently

in the work force or taking a "gap" year before applying to graduate or medical school. We are proud to say that of the 185 recent alumni, thirty are currently enrolled in PhD programs, 42 are either currently enrolled or have completed their Master's degrees in various fields. In addition, 10 are enrolled in professional programs, ranging from law school (JD) to pharmacy (PharmD) to medicine (MD). As anticipated, many of our SROP alumni have continued in STEM and health sciences sectors, as well as a number in social work. Numbers do not tell the whole story. (Continued on next page)

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

The following letters showcase the SROP experience from both perspectives: that of a student participant and that of a UIC faculty member. They have been edited for clarity and length.

Program experience from the perspective of a SROP scholar

Hi Mr. Allen [Bryson],
I hope you're doing well! [...] Thank you again for a wonderful summer research experience. When I first chose to participate in SROP, I wasn't entirely sure [what] to expect. It was March and I'd had a few offers from other programs, leaving me with a difficult decision on which summer internship to take. However, by the end of summer, I knew that SROP had been a great choice – both in giving me an excellent research experience and in preparing me for graduate school applications. My experiences in this program helped me grow both academically and personally. I was matched with a wonderful mentor who inspired me with her passion and dedication for her research as well as her level of investment to make a difference. She guided and mentored me throughout the summer while we worked on a research project in which we investigated demographic predictors of physical activity levels in obese African American women. Throughout the summer, I was able to work on this project as well as participate in a couple of other projects she was working on and gain exposure to the research process on multiple levels.

Being able to go out into the community to observe other investigators as well as to perform surveys was an invaluable experience. While I was often challenged, I never felt like I was completely floundering thanks to the support from the SROP staff. My mentor, along with my research team leader helped me to stay on track and not become too overwhelmed. Through SROP, I was also able to participate in a graduate portfolio course in which I learned how to become better prepared for graduate school and how to go through the graduate school application process. Leaving the program, I felt renewed and inspired to pursue graduate education. The prospect of applying and being accepted felt less overwhelming and definitely within my reach.
Sincerely,
Jaime Wong (Health and Nutrition)



Jamel Clark and Jessica Valesquez win awards for outstanding oral student presentations at the Illinois Summer Research Symposium, July, 2015.



SROP Director Allen Bryson (front row, left) and the 2015 scholars ("UIC SROP Force") arrive at the Illinois Summer Research Symposium hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in July, 2015.

Program experience from the perspective of a SROP faculty mentor

Dear Allen,
Over the past two years, my laboratory has participated in UIC's Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP). In order to encourage their enthusiasm about STEM research, I pair the SROP participants with a senior graduate student on a project for which we had positive preliminary data. After their training, they then learn how to

design experiments to answer questions about the mechanism or the scope and limitations of the new reaction. At the end of their summer research experience, each of the participants wrote a report and presented a poster on their results.

This year, my laboratory and I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Bryant Thurman from Montevallo University. During the three months that Bryant worked with us, his performance well exceeded my expectations. He had a fantastic attitude, was a great team player, and rapidly picked up the skills required to succeed at a transition metal-catalyzed method development project. His project was centered on harnessing the reactivity of N-aryl nitrenes using a transition metal catalyst to efficiently access benzazapinones from aryl azides. It is due to his efforts that we have almost completed this project, and he has earned co-authorship on a manuscript that we will submit in early 2016. Bryant is currently applying to PhD programs in organic chemistry, and I sincerely believe that he will not only succeed in graduate school, but has the aptitude to be a leader in the laboratory that he joins. It has been a joy and a privilege to participate in the SROP program and have the opportunity to work with talented individuals like Mr. Bryant Thurman. I look forward to my continued participation in this outstanding program.
Sincerely,
Tom G. Driver

The Graduate College looks forward to thirty more years of SROP excellence!

The 2016 UIC Student Research Forum

April 12, 2016, Noon-5:00 PM
UIC Forum - 725 W. Roosevelt Road

Submit an abstract! Be a judge! Students from all disciplines are invited to present their work one-on-one to judges during a 3-hour session, followed by an awards ceremony. Faculty, staff, current graduate students, and alumni can serve as a judge at the 2016 UIC Student Research Forum! Connect with one of the finest student-run activities at UIC. A light lunch and parking are provided. Learn more about submitting an abstract (by March 21st) and judging at <http://research.uic.edu/srf>.

DATA

Annual Graduate and Professional Profile Reports

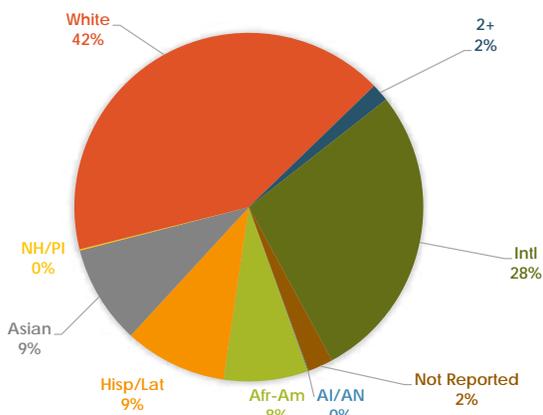
The Annual Graduate and Professional Profile Reports provide 5 years' history of demographics on application, enrollment, and degree data. In addition to being available for each graduate and professional program, they are also available in aggregated totals for STEM programs, GEMS programs, each College, all four Graduate Divisions, and the entire University. Whether data is needed for a grant application or an academic program review, these reports offer a wealth of data in tabular and graphical formats. For the latest edition of the profile reports, visit <http://grad.uic.edu/program-data/annual-graduate-and-professional-profile-reports>

In addition to these reports, Kevin Monahan, Director of Graduate Program Review and Information Systems, also creates doctoral time-to-degree/attrition reports upon request. He is happy to meet with program directors or other staff or faculty to discuss their data and provide custom quantitative analysis. Contact him via email at kmonahan@uic.edu.

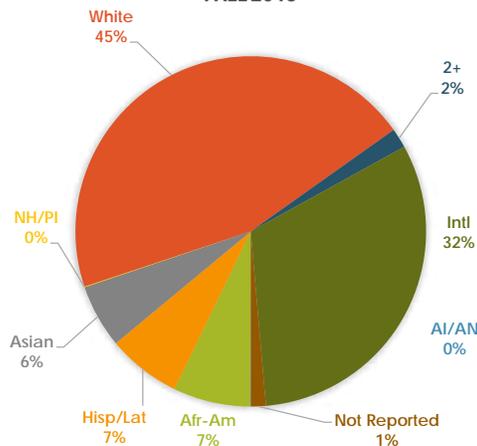
UIC Enrollment By Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2015

	AI/AN	Afr-Am	Hisp/Lat	Asian	NH/PI	White	2+	Intl	Not Reported	Total
Master's	4	377	460	443	6	2015	80	1339	114	4838
Doctorate	2	200	192	165	2	1276	51	892	39	2819
Totals	6	577	652	608	8	3428	131	2231	153	7657

MASTER'S ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY FALL 2015



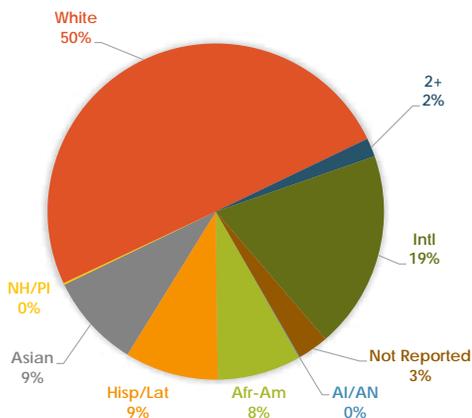
DOCTORAL ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY FALL 2015



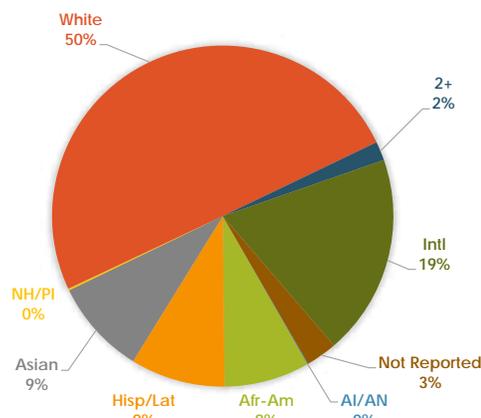
UIC Enrollment By Race/Ethnicity, Five-Year Average (2011-2015)

	AI/AN	Afr-Am	Hisp/Lat	Asian	NH/PI	White	2+	Intl	Not Reported	Total
Master's	4.4	384.4	428.8	430.4	8.4	2378.4	85.2	908.4	14.4	4769.8
Doctorate	1.4	195	180.2	154.8	1.4	1196.8	41.8	840.6	34.8	2646.8
Totals	5.8	579.4	609.0	585.2	9.8	3575.2	127	1748.2	176.2	7416.6

MASTER'S ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY 5-YEAR AVERAGE (2011-2015)



MASTER'S ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY 5-YEAR AVERAGE (2011-2015)



Key: AI = American Indian; AN = Alaskan Native; Afr-Am = African-American/Black; Hisp/Lat = Hispanic/Latino; NH = Native Hawaiian; PI = Pacific Islander; 2+ = 2 more races; Intl = International. Non-degree and certificate students are not included.

MORE GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWS

“Get Your Write ON!” Bi-Weekly (+) Writing Sessions

As reported in our previous issue, the Graduate College established “Get Your Write ON!” in Fall 2014 for graduate students working on a scholarly manuscript (article, thesis, dissertation). Promising a “table, Wi-Fi, coffee, and quietude” in SSB 2790, the Graduate College’s auxiliary space, the three-hour-long writing session was initially every other week.

“The WriteOn sessions provide me with invaluable structure for my dissertation work. They facilitate my ability to approach writing like a job, and I have tangible results every week to show for it. WriteOn also allows me to work in an environment surrounded by other PhD candidates, and thus feel a part of a community, in an otherwise solitary endeavor.”
– PhD student in Anthropology

Increased demand for the limited seating (twelve seats) has led to more sessions.

During semester breaks (spring, May, December, and January), sessions were often daily and even full-day. “Pop-up” sessions have also been offered, when staffing permits.

The approach remains no frills with staff and students providing the organic coffee, tea, and creamer and rumors of spin-off groups forming in specific departments is music to our ears, especially since seats are reserved quickly (via Doodle). Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to contact Benn Williams for more information and to demonstrate continued demand.

UIC is an acclaimed research institution that boasts one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse campus communities in the country. UIC promotes doing good and giving back. The lack of a state budget critically endangers the Graduate College’s awards and fellowships. You can help.

Be courageous. Transform lives. Foster success. Inspire discovery. Cultivate potential. GIVE BACK!

grad.uic.edu/giving

The versatile **PhD**

Concerned about the academic job market or thinking about non-academic careers? Take advantage of Versatile PhD. The Graduate College subscribes to VphD’s resources so that graduate students, postdocs, and recent alumni in the humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines can gain more information about PhD-friendly careers and about making the non-academic or “alt-ac” pivot.

Visit http://vphd.info/UIC_go! First-time users must create a member account to utilize all of the premium content.

Anyone with a valid UIC netid (including alumni for up to one year after graduation) can use the subscription.

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