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THE UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO
HONORS COLLEGE

2014 – 2015

HONORABLE
MENTIONS

For the Alumni, Faculty, Students, Parents, and Friends of the UIC Honors College

Honors Alumna “Pays It Forward”

For the fourth straight year, the Honors College has successfully nominated outstanding alumni for recognition by the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The most recent Honors College winner of one of these impressive UIAA awards is Ms. Carshae D. Dahl, who received the 2014 Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service at our new student welcome reception on August 24, 2014.

Carshae graduated from the College of Business Administration and the Honors College with a degree in economics in 2004. In a testimonial about why she supports the Honors College, Carshae stated: “During my last year at UIC, the Honors College held a panel discussion on law schools and the law school application process.



Carshae Dahl accepts the 2014 Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service from Dean Bette L. Bottoms.

At the end of the discussion the Dean at the time introduced me to the Dean of Admissions at the University of Chicago Law School. To make a somewhat long story short, I applied to the U of C and was accepted early decision. To this day, I think the panel discussion put on by the Honors College and the subsequent conversation that I was

able to have played a large role in both my decision to apply to the U of C and my acceptance. I would be honored to give back to the Honors College in any way I can.”

Carshae is now a seventh year Benefits and Compensation Associate in the Tax Department at the law firm of Latham & Watkins LLP, and has kept her promise of giving back. She has acted as a

panelist multiple times for the annual “Alumni in the Law” networking event co-sponsored by the Honors College, meeting with students who are interested in having a career in law. She has mentored UIC students she has met at these panels. Her husband Ryan Dahl, a fellow University of Chicago law school graduate who is an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, has also served as a law alumni panelist, providing advice to aspiring law students.

In addition to their generosity with their time, Carshae and Ryan have been extremely generous to the Honors College. Carshae began donating regularly to the Honors College the year after she graduated from law school, and in 2012 she and Ryan established a joint pledge to fund an Access Illinois Scholarship in the Honors College. Carshae’s generosity is an inspiring example to other successful young alumni about the importance of giving back.

During her acceptance speech, Carshae encouraged the first-year Honors students to make a commitment to give back: “As future alumni, I want to speak to you about the importance of giving back to the Honors College, whether it be a donation of time, money, or support. When I was a student, my parents were not in a position to help me pay for school. I was given the opportunity to sit where you all sit today because of the generosity of those who came before me. And, we all have a responsibility to the Honors College to ensure that current and future students will continue to have these same—and better—opportunities going forward. We must all take our obligation to give back seriously, or these opportunities created by the Honors College will be lost.”

The Honors College is proud of Carshae and grateful for her generosity. Congratulations!



Honors Alumna Receives University of Illinois Alumni Association Award!
Article on page 8.

Ms. Carshae (Davis) Dahl, a 2004 Honors College graduate with a degree in economics from the College of Business Administration, received the 2014 Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service to the Honors College.

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Allie Dowd Memorial Scholarship established in the Honors College

Hanna Hixson, an Honors College freshman, is the proud recipient of a unique four-year scholarship for an incoming student, the Allie Dowd Memorial Scholarship. This generous scholarship was created in memory of Allie Dowd, who tragically died in an accident in 2004 when she was nine years old. To honor what would have been Allie’s first year of college, her parents Diane and Brian created a contest where participants could vote via Facebook to determine where Allie should have gone to college. Of 14 participating universities, UIC obtained more than 1,000 votes more than the second place finisher. In recognition of UIC’s spirit, the Dowd family donated a \$40,000 scholarship for an Honors College student—\$10,000 per year for four years.

In high school in southeast Ohio, Hanna was a varsity athlete in volleyball, participated in student government, and took introductory college courses at Ohio University. She is very grateful that she got the opportunity to come to UIC with the Allie Dowd Memorial Scholarship. She is already actively involved as the Freshman Representative for the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB), the official student representative organization in the College.

On October 31, Diane Dowd and her daughter Bailey traveled to Chicago and met Hanna. Says Hanna: “I am so appreciative of this scholarship! There is no way that I could have come to UIC as an out-of-state student without it. I am truly grateful to the Dowd family, and hope that someday I can provide a scholarship like this to a student.”

The Honors College is proud to honor Allie’s memory, and grateful to the Dowd family for making Hanna’s dreams possible. Gifts like these make the difference between success and failure for many UIC Honors students.



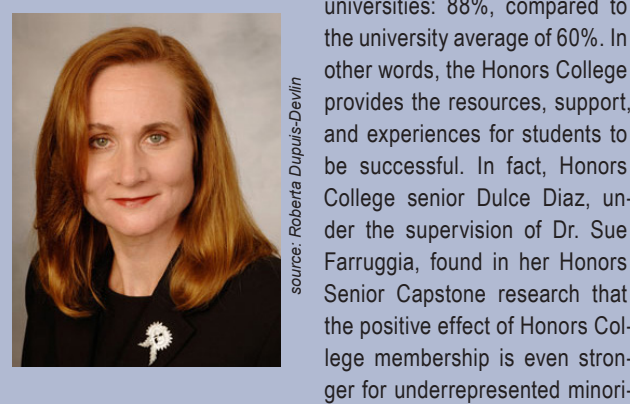
Freshman Hanna Hixson (center) meets Diane Dowd (left), and daughter Bailey Dowd (right).

Message from the Dean

Dear Honors College Alumni, Faculty Members, Parents, Students, and Friends:

The UIC Honors College grows stronger each year, reflecting the growing achievements of 1,500 outstanding students and over 350 Faculty Fellows from every discipline. Throughout these pages, you will see examples of how our students stand out as leaders in the classroom, in the laboratory, and in the community, and how our faculty are recognized across campus, the nation, and the world for their excellence in research and teaching. It is no wonder that two-thirds of Honors freshmen tell me that they would not have come to UIC had there been no Honors College.

The Honors College allows UIC to recruit the highest achieving students at the university. The enhanced academic opportunity, challenge, and support allows our students to achieve the graduation rates enjoyed by students at so-called “elite” public and private universities: 88%, compared to the university average of 60%.



source: Roberta Duplis-Devlin

In other words, the Honors College provides the resources, support, and experiences for students to be successful. In fact, Honors College senior Dulce Diaz, under the supervision of Dr. Sue Farruggia, found in her Honors Senior Capstone research that the positive effect of Honors College membership is even stronger for underrepresented minority students than for others. This is exceptionally important since our college is one of the most diverse Honors Colleges in the nation, with underrepresented students making up about 20% of the entire Honors College and 30% of last year’s entering freshman class.

A current Honors student and member of the President Awards Program-Honors (PAP-H) Class of 2016, Karelle Webb said this about the Honors College: “I came into college with the weight of the world on my shoulders, fearing I was not up to the academic demand. UIC has pushed me beyond the boundaries of my comfort zone, made me work harder than I ever have before, and spurred passion I never knew I had.... There will never be words to describe the impact PAP-H will forever have on my life. UIC is home.... The Honors College is more than just a college—it’s a community.” Karelle is at UIC because she received the PAP-H Scholarship, which provides full tuition and housing for four years.

Like Karelle, I feel fortunate to be a part of this Honors College community, and I welcome your active involvement in it. There are many service opportunities, such as helping us to interview over 1,000 prospective Honors students, but the single most important thing you can do is provide the gift of dollars to help a student pay for tuition and housing. Each year, our student body has grown needier financially. You can help. Let me tell you how. Call me anytime at 312-413-2260. So, enjoy this edition of *Honorable Mentions*, and then tell me how you would like to be involved!

Best wishes,
Bette L. Bottoms

Bette L. Bottoms
Dean and Professor of Psychology
(bbottoms@uic.edu)

State and National Leadership Initiatives

The Honors College has long been a point of pride for UIC and a national leader, modeling innovative programming for peer institutions. In the past year, there has been regional and national recognition:

Host of the 2014 Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Honors Education Meeting:

In May 2014, the UIC Honors College hosted the biennial CIC (the “Big 10 plus”) Honors Education meeting, where more than 35 Honors deans, directors, and their executive staff met for two days to share best practices and consider future directions in Honors education. The meeting spurred the development of an inter-institutional working group on assessment.



Participants at the 2014 CIC Honors Education Meeting hosted by the UIC Honors College.

source: UIC Honors College

Dean Bottoms met with this group in the summer at a “fly-in” at O’Hare International Airport, where Ohio State, Minnesota, and Michigan State deans learned about UIC’s multivariate research documenting the value of Honors, and planned a national presentation on the topic at the 2015 meeting of Honors Education in Research Universities (HERU).

Planning Committee for the Honors Education at Research Universities (HERU) 2015 National Conference: Dean Bottoms serves as a member of the planning committee for the second biennial HERU conference, May 18-19, 2015 at Oregon State University. The UIC Honors College was a founding member of the steering committee that launched this conference in May 2013 at Pennsylvania State University.

Founding of “The Journal of Honors in Higher Education”: With co-editor Dr. Nichola Gutgold from Pennsylvania State University, Dean Bottoms is the founding co-editor of a new journal focused on Honors education. The first round of submissions will be accepted in conjunction with the Honors Education at Research Universities (HERU) Conference in May 2015.

Recent Alumnus Already Making a Difference

Hugh Vondracek, a 2014 Honors College graduate who majored in Political Science, recently had his Senior Capstone Thesis Project published. Entitled “A Single Raised Hand; Prospects for Peace in the Sudanese Rivalry,” this original piece of research provides an analysis of the secession of South Sudan from Sudan and the implications of “born feuding” theory for the international system.

While a student at UIC, Hugh received numerous prestigious awards, including the United States Department of State Critical Languages Scholarship. This allowed him to travel to Ankara, Turkey, and led to an internship at the U.S Embassy in Turkey. Hugh received the McKelvie Scholarship, which promotes public service leadership, and the Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship. He is currently earning his M.Sc. in international relations at the University of Glasgow, Scotland through the Glasgow University Trust International Leadership Scholarship. Hugh is the 2014 Donald and Leah Riddle Prize recipient, which recognizes the most outstanding graduating senior in both academic achievement and leadership at UIC.



source: UIC News

Honor Roll of Donors for Fiscal Year 2014

The following individuals and organizations have made gifts to the Honors College in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014). Thanks to their support, the Honors College is able to offer enhanced student programming, scholarships, and financial support for students engaged in research, study abroad, and other academic endeavors.

Thank you to all of our donors—we greatly appreciate your support!

Chancellor’s Circle Donors: \$2,500+

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and Ms. Jolanta Wlodarkiewicz
Ms. Carshae Davis Dahl and Mr. Ryan Preston Dahl
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Bose Factory Store
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Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Bulls
Chicago Cubs
Chicago History Museum
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Wolves
Chicago Zoological Society
D4 Irish Pub and Cafe
The Drum and Monkey
GCI Consolidated, LLC
Greek Islands Restaurant
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
Hyde Park Art Center
Kohl Children’s Museum
Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.
McDonald’s Corporation
Medieval Times
Merchant & Rhoades
Oak Park Piano
Papa Johns #3888
Phil Stefani Signature Restaurants
Red Mango
Rosebud Restaurants, Inc.
Running Away Enterprises, LLC
Shedd Aquarium
Sky High Sports

CPS Well-Represented Among UIC Honors Scholarship Winners

The following story, written by Brian Flood, appeared in UIC News in October 2014.

Forty graduates from Chicago Public Schools are among the 83 recipients of this fall's inaugural Fresh Start scholarships in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Honors College.

"These are the strongest students at the university. They stand out as classroom leaders, who seek out intellectual challenges and engagement," says Bette L. Bottoms, dean of the Honors College and professor of psychology. "But their financial needs are great. We are pleased to support their achievements as they enter the UIC Honors College community."

The award, which is based on merit and financial need, ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and can be used toward any cost of attendance, such as tuition, housing or books.

In addition to the 40 Fresh Start scholarship awardees, another dozen 2014 CPS graduates accepted the President's Award Program-Honors Scholarship, which is the Honors College's most prestigious award, covering four years of tuition and housing for exemplary incoming first-year students. Additional Honors College freshman scholarships were awarded to three other CPS graduates.

The UIC Honors College, with approximately 1,500 students and 330 faculty fellows, provides select undergraduates with a nurturing and collaborative educational environment to explore issues in depth, through special projects and classes. Students must maintain a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and complete special honors enrichment activities, including a senior thesis.

Applications to the Honors College have doubled over the last two years. The first-to-second-year retention rate is 92 percent, while the six-year graduation rate is 88 percent, rivaling or exceeding the best colleges in the nation.

In addition to access to merit and need-based scholarships, Honors

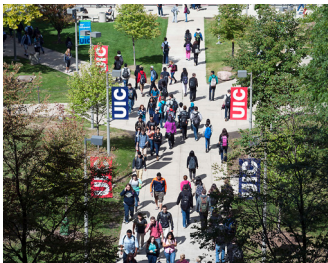
College students enjoy "honors only" facilities; civic engagement opportunities; and the mentoring of Honors College faculty fellows, who offer guidance on advanced research projects.

In a recent research project, Honors College senior Dulce Diaz and faculty mentor Susan Farruggia found that enrollment in the Honors College improved student success even after accounting for differences in entering factors such as ACT score, AP credit, or financial background.

Positive effects were even stronger for underrepresented minority students than for others, who might have strong support systems already. Underrepresented students make up about 20 percent of the college and 30 percent of last year's entering freshman class. "Closing the achievement gap between students of different races and ethnicities is exceptionally important since our college is one of the most diverse honors colleges in the nation," Bottoms said.

The six-year graduation rate for students who entered the Honors College in 2008 is 90 percent for Asian American students, 86 percent for whites, 85 percent for Latinos and 75 percent for African-Americans.

Established in 1982, the UIC Honors College grew out of a longtime university program that sought to enhance the experience of academically superior students. Admission is based upon factors such as high school class rank, grades earned in high school, extracurricular interests and activities, strength of application essays, and performance in an in-person interview that explores their desire to participate in the Honors College.



source: UIC News

Capstone Focus: The Brain in Translation

by Sarita Deshpande, Honors College Freshman



source: UIC Photo Services

Sagar Shah with Eric Leafblad, President of the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA), accepting the HCAA Scholarship at the 2014 Honors College Ball.

For UIC senior Sagar Shah, the Capstone project is more than just an Honors College requirement; it represents years of hard work and his driving passion for psychology and neuroscience. The Capstone project serves as the culmination of an Honors College student's undergraduate experience. It provides them with the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills from the classroom to a relevant research question.

Majoring in neuroscience, Shah worked in Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Gary Raney's psycholinguistics lab to understand how different aspects of language affect our lives. In particular, he explored the lateral processing of Gujarati and English

in the brain. Shah designed his study, selected participants, and completed all tests and analyses in one year. Using bilingual native Gujarati or English speakers as subjects, Shah performed behavioral tests to measure reactions to concrete words—such as "table" and "car"—and to abstract words—such as "truth" and "justice." He found that concrete words are processed faster than abstract words when in people's native languages. For his work in psycholinguistics, Shah received an Honors College Research Grant and won first place in the Social Sciences Division at the UIC Student Research Forum last April.

Shah's achievement is the result of the great amount of time and discipline that he devoted to his Capstone. After working in Dr. Raney's lab for three years, he developed a strong incentive to learn more about neuroscience and its connection to linguistics. As a future medical student, Shah hopes to further investigate this topic by using different methods of measuring brain activity, such as functional MRIs.

Shah encourages all Honors College students to start working on their Capstone projects early in order to help complete meaningful, innovative research. He advises taking full advantage of the various opportunities presented by the Honors College which will "ultimately create a unique and fun UIC experience."

Achievements of Honors College Students: Prestigious National and Campus Award Recipients

Honors College students make up about 70% of UIC's winners of prestigious national scholarships and awards. With support from the College's Office of Special Scholarship Programs (OSSP), led by Director Beth Powers and Scholarship Specialist Sheena Miller, over 177 Honors College students have been awarded nationally competitive scholarships since 2000. Although located within the Honors College, OSSP supports all UIC students in preparing for nationally competitive awards. Select recent Honors College recipients include:

- FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP:** for college graduates to study, conduct research, or teach English abroad
 - LEA CROWLEY:** senior in History and Anthropology, to teach English in Korea
 - PONNU PADIYARA:** senior in Biological Sciences and Psychology, to teach English in Turkey

- WHITAKER INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP:** for U.S. students to study biomedical engineering abroad
 - NIKHIL BOMMAKANTI:** senior in Bioengineering, to conduct research at the University of Oxford

- U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CRITICAL LANGUAGES SCHOLARSHIP:** overseas summer intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences
 - NEHARIKA AKKOOR:** senior in Philosophy, studying Hindi in Jaipur, India
 - BRIDGET HANSEN:** junior in Anthropology and History, studying Arabic in Nizwa, Oman

- MCKELVIE SCHOLARSHIP:** to promote and strengthen public service leadership in the public sector
 - HUGH VONDRACEK:** senior in Political Science
 - MATTHEW WALSH:** sophomore in Urban and Public Affairs

- PHI KAPPA PHI GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP:** to support study in a graduate or professional program
 - HUGH VONDRACEK:** senior in Political Science, for an M.Sc. in International Relations at University of Glasgow

- PHI KAPPA PHI LOVE OF LEARNING AWARD:** for alumni post-baccalaureate studies and career development
 - JULIANNE FAUST:** B.A., Psychology, 2011, for a certificate in pre-medical studies at Northwestern University

- DELTA PHI ALPHA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP:** for the most outstanding student of German studies in the U.S.A.
 - KERRY GAWNE:** senior in Germanic Studies

- DAAD GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP:** for graduate study in Germany
 - JEFFREY SABA:** senior in Anthropology and Germanic Studies

- GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP:** for students who are underrepresented in study abroad
 - MINAH DAO:** study in South Korea
 - MAGDALENA MASTALERZ:** study in Poland
 - KIMBERLY HU:** study in China, Vietnam, Laos, and Tibet
 - CARLOS MONTERO:** study in China
 - THEODORE LANCE:** study in South Korea
 - DEBBIE PATINO:** study in Indonesia
 - PAULINA STRUK:** study in Australia

- GOLDWATER HONORABLE MENTION:** for students with research careers in math, science, or engineering
 - BASHEER SUBEI:** junior in Bioengineering, intends to pursue a Ph.D. in bioengineering

- TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST:** for graduate school funding for students who demonstrate achievement in leadership, academics, and public service
 - DANIELLE LEIBOWITZ:** junior in Teaching of Mathematics

- LINCOLN LAUREATE AWARD:** presented annually by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois to recognize one senior at each four-year institution within Illinois who embodies academic and extra-curricular excellence
 - F. ROBLES:** senior in Psychology and Gender and Women's Studies

- DONALD AND LEAH RIDDLE PRIZE:** annual award to one outstanding UIC senior for academics and leadership
 - HUGH VONDRACEK:** senior in Political Science



Ponnu Padiyara

source: UIC News



Carlos Montero



Neharika Akkoor

source: UIC News



Matthew Walsh



Bridget Hansen

source: UIC News

2014 BY THE NUMBERS

- 35

Honors Freshman Core Courses
- 30

Honors Seminars
- 57

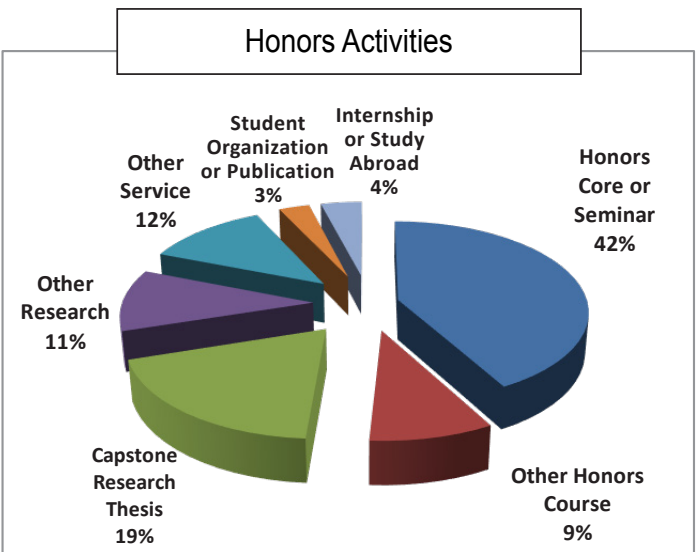
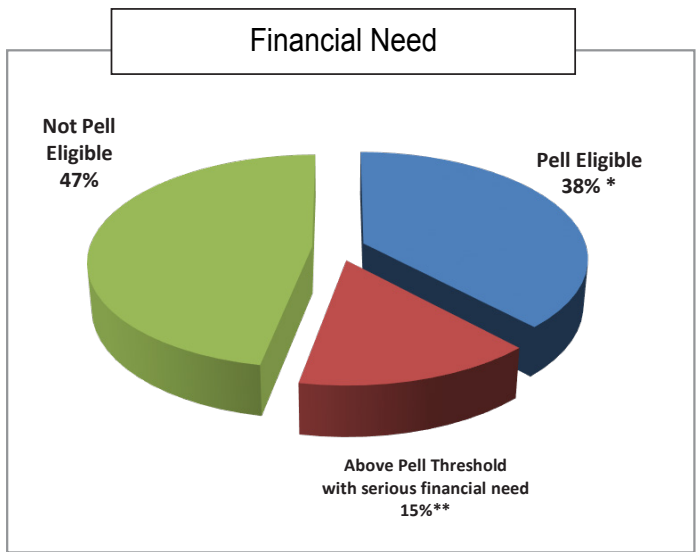
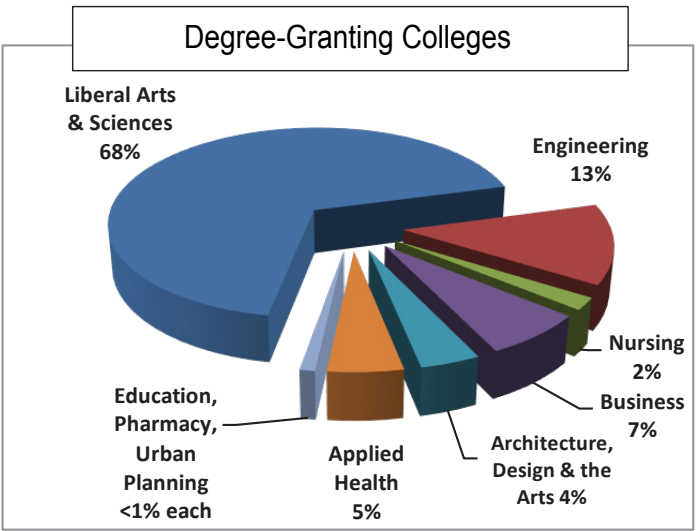
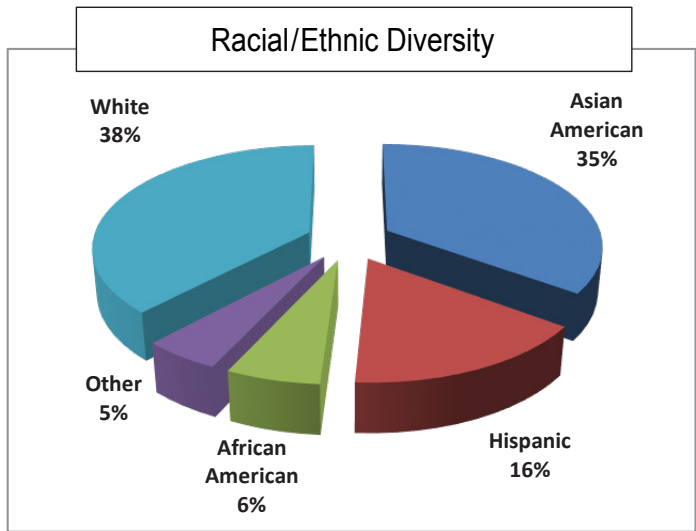
Honors Faculty Instructors
- 356

Honors Faculty Fellows
- 1588

Honors College Students
- 300

Honors College Graduates

Honors College Students:

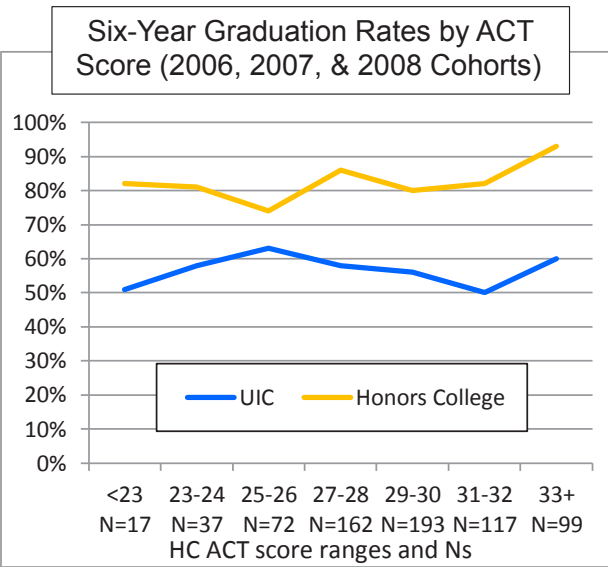
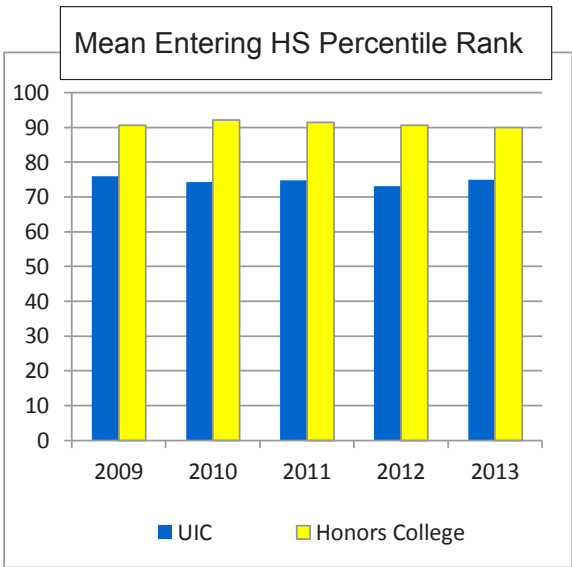


* Pell eligible students are determined to have a low or zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to the cost of their education.

** Students who are above the Pell threshold, yet whose Expected Family Contribution does not cover the cost of tuition, let alone fees, housing, books, and other educational expenses.

A PROFILE OF SUCCESS

The UIC Honors College has emerged as a leader of the Chicago Collaborative for Undergraduate Success (collaborative.uic.edu), with Dean Bottoms as its Executive Director, and Thrive Chicago—groups of universities, high schools, non-profits, and others working together to promote college readiness and student success in the city. As such, the UIC Honors College serves as an important model of effective student success initiatives not only for the university at large, but also for the region. Students in the Honors College had an average six-year graduation rate of 82% in 2013-14 (rising to 88% for 2014-2015), compared to a university average of 58% (now 60%). This advantage holds even after accounting for entering ACT score, unweighted high school GPA, high school percentile rank, and number of entering AP credits. (The six-year rate is the national benchmark; most Honors students graduate in four years.) **The class that entered in Fall 2008 has achieved a record six-year graduation rate of 88%. The average GPA of Honors students at UIC remains steady at 3.68.**



2010-2014 Honors College Fundraising Results

The Honors College has quadrupled its fundraising over the past five fiscal years, allowing the College to provide more students with much-needed scholarships. Even so, our students' increasing financial need far outstrips what we can currently provide. Every dollar donated makes a real, immediate difference in the lives of our students.

