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LAN CHAPLIN ASKS:
SHOULD WE SHOW KIDS THE MONEY?

HOMECOMING
BECOMES NEW CAMPUS TRADITION

MOVABLE MURAL PAINTS PICTURE
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For the community of the University of Illinois at Chicago

— Photo: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin
LAN CHAPLIN

Show kids the money?

By Gary Wisby — gwisby@uic.edu

You can get more effort out of kids who get their hands on a little money. But you’ll find them less willing to give and more willing to take than tots who didn’t touch the dough.

Those are among the findings of a study by Lan Chaplin, associate professor of marketing, and four other researchers. “Kids who handle money work harder,” Chaplin said, “but there’s a downside — the same hardworking kids help and donate less, but take more.”

The researchers conducted six studies with 550 children ages 3 to 6 — most from Poland and the rest from a large metropolitan area on the East Coast.

For each study, children were separated into two groups. One group was asked to sort money and the other to sort buttons or candy. Each group was then asked to complete challenging tasks like a jigsaw puzzle or maze.

In one experiment, the researchers found that 73 percent of the preschoolers who handled money spent at least two minutes on a puzzle. Of the button handlers, only 56 percent gave it that much time.

In a second experiment, the kids were asked to help prepare a task for another child that involved gathering crayons. The ones who sorted money were less helpful at the chore.

Another study added candy to the mix. After sorting candy, money or buttons, the youngsters were allowed to take up to six Disney stickers.

Everyone who handled money took at least three stickers, while only 78 percent of the candy sorters and 76 percent of the button sorters took that many.

Then they were told they could give some of their stickers to kids who didn’t participate. The money handlers gave away only half as many stickers as the candy and button handlers.

The denomination of the money made no difference. Also, there was no difference between the Polish and American kids.

“Money is a vital component of cultural life,” Chaplin said. “Our findings with children as young as three suggest potentially significant implications for achievement, generosity and interpersonal harmony.”

Other researchers have come up with similar results with adults in Europe, Asia and North America.

“We wondered if the effects found in all the adult studies were due to adults’ knowledge of the value of money,” Chaplin said. “So we studied children who have very little knowledge of money, and we found the same effects.”

The study, “Money Cues Increase Agency and Decrease Prosociality Among Children: Early Signs of Market Mode Behaviors,” will appear in the journal Psychological Science.

Co-authors with Chaplin are Kathleen Vohs of the University of Minnesota; Agata Gasiorewska and Tomasz Zaleskiwicz, both of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, Poland; and Sandra Wygrab of the Center of Research in Economic Behavior in Warsaw.

Chaplin was co-winner of the ACR Sheth Foundation Dissertation Competition for Public Purpose Research in 2002. Her topic: the development of materialism in children and adolescents.

Her maiden name, Nguyen, indicates her Vietnamese heritage, but she grew up in Philadelphia. She earned a bachelor’s degree in biological basis of behavior from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Minnesota.

Chaplin was a lecturer in marketing at Minnesota from 2000 to 2002; an assistant professor of marketing at UIUC from 2003 to 2007, at the University of Arizona from 2008 to 2010, and at Villanova University from 2010 to 2013; and an associate professor of marketing at Villanova in 2013. She started at UIC in 2013.

She lives in Winnetka with her husband, Brian Chaplin, a professor of chemical engineering at UIC, their son, Wilhelm Thai, 10, and their daughter, Amara Thai, 6.

Most of her research involves children. “I’m interested in anything related to how kids learn about the marketplace — so anything from what they know about money to why they value material goods more than experiences,” Chaplin said. “What they know about products and brands blows my mind.”

“Every time that a Trump Tower or a parking garage or a hotel doesn’t pay their fair share of taxes, we do. We still have to raise the same amount of tax money.”

Dick Simpson, UIC professor of political science, on tax breaks for Donald Trump’s Chicago tower. Feb. 17 WGN-AM

“If you make that kind of investment in people, they can do some amazing things.”

Tim Shanahan, professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction, on the initial training and support for teachers and principals through the Chicago Reading Initiative. Feb. 19 Chicago Catalyst

“We’re talking about creating a culture of movement for the population, for anyone so anyone can feel welcome doing it. We’re not trying to think about a fitness center for a certain group of people.”

Ross Arena, professor and head of physical therapy and interim head of kinesiology, on a green fitness area proposed for Grant Park. Feb. 18 RedEye
WE'RE A BIG UNIVERSITY, AND WE'RE CAPABLE OF DOING THESE AMAZING THINGS.

The event was put together by the Center for Student Involvement’s Student Activities Board, along with their campus partners, including the University Ambassadors, Fraternity and Sorority Life, UIC Athletics, Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services, UIC Radio and the Commuter Student Resource Center and the UIC Bookstore.

“It’s something that brings us together for a week to celebrate UIC, to celebrate our alumni, to celebrate the entire campus, so I think it’s important to have traditions like this that grow bigger and better each year,” said Sladjana Grbic, assistant program director for the Center for Student Involvement.

Grbic said she looks forward to creating more relationships with campus partners, who helped bring the UIC community together and get students involved.

“We’re excited to partner with other campus organizations, colleges and departments and make this a very successful week,” she said.

“We’re extremely proud of the event,” added Almasa Pecanin, vice president of the Student Activities Board. “It was a way to unite the entire campus, and people really enjoyed it.”

UIUC Chancellor Michael Amiridis, Provost Susan Amrind, Provost Susan Poser and Barbara Henley, vice chancellor for student affairs, made appearances and participated throughout the week. The Student Activities Board sold enough tickets for the homecoming dance to fill the Navy Pier venue to capacity.

“We’re a big university, and we’re capable of doing these amazing things, so I hope that one day schools are looking to us to see what we’re doing, what we’re planning,” Pecanin said.

Students from the UIC College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy are helping out the Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System to recognize its value in the Chicago community.

“We don’t have the opportunity to go to the clinic and save a life because we don’t know enough yet, we don’t have the skills to do that, so contributing, even a small amount for this, is significant for us,” said Ben Vazquez, a first-year medical student in the College of Medicine.

Vazquez and other first-year students organized a charity auction in November, donating half of the proceeds — a total of $2,564 — to the Sickle Cell Center, which provides treatment and support services for patients with sickle cell disease, a disorder of the hemoglobin. The rest of the auction proceeds will go toward the 2019 UIC Match Day celebration, when medical students across the country find out their residency placements.

The donation was made to spotlight the importance of the Acute Care Treatment Center, a branch of the hospital’s sickle cell program that treats patients suffering from chronic pain episodes.

“We’re hoping to raise enough awareness to help the center get money from external donors,” he said.

In the past, the sickle cell program was supported by the Illinois Department of Public Health, but because of state budget uncertainty, the entirety of this year’s support has not come through,” said Victor Gordeuk, professor of medicine and director of the Sickle Cell Program.

The budget impasse has affected some of the center’s services, such as the Acute Care Center and community outreach program, but the hospital is committed to continuing patient care for sickle cell pain episodes, Gordeuk said.

The hospital plans to relocate the treatment site for sickle cell patients and make it part of a new clinical decision unit, which will function in conjunction with the emergency department later this year. A nurse practitioner specialist will supervise care for sickle cell patients.

“We’re working to make sure that this proceeds with a continuation of the Acute Care Center’s services for patients,” Gordeuk said.

Sickle cell disease is the most common lethal genetic disease in the United States, affecting between 90,000 to 100,000 Americans. But the disease is still “virtually unknown,” said Robert Molokie, a UI Health physician and assistant professor in the College of Medicine.

Sickle cell patients “really need the help,” said Vazquez, who has worked for the center since 2013.

Molokie said he and his colleagues were “ecstatic,” after learning that students would be donating.

“The medical group has done a tremendous amount of things to increase awareness,” Molokie said.

“It’s really exciting to see these students have real compassion for the patients,” Gordeuk added.

External funding can help support treatment developments and research initiatives that the center’s researchers and physicians are involved in, Gordeuk said.

Last year, the center cured 12 adult patients with the disease. Physicians used a stem cell transplant procedure, the first to be performed outside of the National Institutes of Health campus in Maryland, where it was first developed.

Molokie said the students’ donation will improve the quality of life for more than 600 adult and nearly 200 pediatric patients.

“If we can donate, other people can, too,” Vazquez said.
Exhibition inspired by women’s HIV stories

An opening reception is set for Friday for a UIC exhibition featuring oral histories, photos, documents and hand-written stories from Chicago women living with HIV.

The exhibit, “In Plain Sight: A Women’s History of HIV/AIDS in Chicago,” opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. at Pop Up JUST Art Center, 1255 S. Halsted St. Hours for the exhibit, which will be on view through April 2, are 3 to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

“In Plain Sight” is a public exhibition inspired by an ongoing project called “I’m Still Surviving: A Women’s History of HIV/AIDS in the United States.”

The exhibition and corresponding project are the result of collaboration between the UIC-based History Moves project and Chicago participants in the Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), a 23-year-old clinical research study on women living with HIV. The “I’m Still Surviving” project recently received funding from MAC AIDS Fund, a foundation of MAC Cosmetics, to expand the public history work to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York.

Working in pairs to interview one another, the women shared stories of heartbreak and courage, loss and pain, and tales of redemption, determination and spirit, said Jennifer Brier, professor and director of gender and women’s studies and history, and lead investigator for History Moves.

With the individual oral histories as a guide, History Moves and WIHS worked with the women to collect visual materials to accompany their personal narratives. The stories and exhibited items weave the HIV/AIDS epidemic into the history of Chicago.

Brier is lead historian for the exhibition and book. The project’s graphic design was led by Matt Wizinsky, assistant professor of design at the University of Cincinnati.

“In Plain Sight” is supported through a grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation with the support and encouragement of Jane M. Saks. Admission is free and open to the public. Call (312) 413-2458 to arrange group tours.
Movable mural paints a picture of social transformation

By Francisca Corona — fcoron3@uic.edu

The UIC community showed what issues are at the heart of national, immigrant and undocumented populations’ struggles with brushes that bled for social, cultural and environmental justice.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni created a movable mural last month at the Latino Cultural Center to inspire dialogue on the effects of legislation, beliefs or national events on different communities. Contributors visualized topics such as man-made borders, socially constructed concepts of citizenship, access to quality education, the importance of clean and safe environments, job security, sufficient healthcare and a secure future for everyone.

“Students wanted to have a public mural that was going to serve to mobilize people to talk about these issues,” said Rosa Cabrera, director of the Latino Cultural Center.

The mural, part of an event titled “Mobilizing with Art for Social Transformation,” was spearheaded by the Fearless Undocumented Alliance, a student organization on campus, along with the LCC and the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center. The event was part of the UIC Peace Project, an initiative of the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change that strives to create dialogue and shift language and actions to put peacemaking into practice.

The mural will be on display in April outside the Latino Cultural Center before being moved to another location — possible places include the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen or the Chicago Field Museum.

Students from Fearless Undocumented Alliance were inspired to start the project because of support for legislation like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Deferred Action for Parental Accountability and the Student ACCESS Bill, or Access to College and Career-Education for Statewide Success.

“We’re using it as a space where students can really come and express themselves and then to really get to talking about these things, the things that you don’t really get to hear in class,” said Ana Ruiz, vice president of the Fearless Undocumented Alliance. “So this [mural] actually changes every day. We’re creating new ideas.”

Participants were under the direction of renowned muralist Hector Duarte, a Mexican muralist who studied mural painting at the workshop of David Alfaro Siqueiros in 1977.

Duarte has created more than 50 murals — his work has been featured in places like the National Museum of Mexican Art, the School of the Art Institute and the Chicago Historical Society. He also created the Latino Cultural Center’s series of indoor murals, which were completed in 1996. Known as “El Despertar de las Americas,” it’s one of the largest indoor murals in Chicago.

But this mural, he says, is unique.

“We’re reinventing the wheel. This generation, they’re looking for change. People need to be receptive to catch this message with the lines, color and beautiful images.”

“Mobilizing Art” took more than 30 hours to complete — from Feb. 3 to 19 — with the help of nearly 800 people.
Teaching medical students about the heart through simulations

By Sharon Parmet — sparmet@uic.edu

George Kondos has taught more than 2,000 UIC medical students how to perform the cardiovascular physical exam.

He’s had a little help from a very smart friend.

Kondos, vice chair of the department of medicine, says most physicians can identify, at most, about 10 percent of the most common heart sounds and murmurs. “Most recently graduated medical students and early career doctors also have difficulty identifying heart sounds and murmurs,” Kondos said.

Don’t blame them, though. “Most medical students just won’t be exposed to all the different kinds of heart diseases during their four years at medical school,” he explained.

Early in his career as a cardiologist at UIC, Kondos wondered how to fill this gap, and came up with an answer: Harvey. Developed by UIC College of Medicine alum Michael Gordon (class of ’61), Harvey is a life-size mannequin able to simulate more than 30 cardiac diseases through heart sounds and life-like pulses in the neck and chest. Kondos called Gordon in 1991 to see if he could get a mannequin at UIC and, with the help of several benefactors, the medical school received a Harvey of its own.

In turn, Gordon asked Kondos to help develop cardiovascular simulation curricula. Kondos joined a group of nationally known cardiologists who met regularly to develop simulation-based technologies. The group helped create computer-based instruction tools to help students learn bedside skills, listen to heart sounds and murmurs, and read an electrocardiogram.

Kondos is chair of the college committee on instructional appraisal that oversees the medical education curriculum. Teaching medical students to master the art and science of the physical exam is something he is serious about.

“Students need to know a certain amount of information, but my real job is to instill in them a few very important concepts that will help shape their practice of medicine and help them take care of patients better,” he said.

“One of these concepts is the idea that the history and physical exam are what help you make the diagnosis. The laboratory studies are just used to confirm your diagnosis.”

Integrating experience, evidence in social work

By Jeffron Boynés — jboynes@uic.edu

Sonya Leathers is a nationally recognized pioneer in preparing students for evidence-based social work practice. Leathers, associate professor in the Jane Addams College of Social Work, is part of a growing group of social workers who recognize the importance of integrating individual clinical expertise with external clinical evidence.

An expert in child and adolescent mental health, she directs the social work training program in evidence-based practices for children and adolescents, called the Evidence-based Mental Health Practices with Children Certificate program.

“Effective education of social work practitioners must result in the transfer of their training in evidence-based interventions to actual practice settings to improve service quality and client outcomes,” says Leathers, winner of a UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“My goal over the past 15 years has been to develop a replicable approach that accomplishes this.”

The certificate program prepares social work students to work with children, adolescents and their families in urban community mental health agencies and other service settings.

Her research, focused on improved mental health outcomes for urban children and adolescents, develops implementation and training models for social workers and disseminates evidence-based interventions to community mental health and child welfare agencies.

Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Children’s Bureau and Health Resources and Services Administration.

Leathers’ goal in the classroom is to “push the boundaries” of traditional approaches to social work education. Teaching and actual practice experiences must be “inextricably linked so that evidence-based behaviors are learned, modeled, practiced and reinforced across contexts,” she said.

In teaching evaluations, students praise her expertise in child welfare, mental health and clinical social work practice; ability to translate this experience into terms understandable to beginning students; and how she challenges them to think critically about the course-related material.

Leathers mentors undergraduate students in the Chancellor’s Undergraduate Research Program and the Summer Research Opportunities Program.

She received her Ph.D. in social services administration with a clinical focus from the University of Chicago. Before joining UIC in 1999, she was a social worker in child welfare and mental health settings for 10 years.
Fostering fascination with ideas in physics

By Bill Burton — burton@uic.edu

Mark Schlossman says there’s more to teaching physics than just how to solve problems. “I hope my students see physics as something they can engage in intellectually,” he says.

Schlossman, professor and associate head of physics, has made pivotal contributions to the teaching of physics at UIC, both in his own classroom and as a leader in overhauling the curriculum. Many of the undergraduates he teaches are physics majors; others are in engineering and some are mathematics and philosophy majors.

“When I approach a classroom, I do so based on my own experience learning physics,” he said. “What excited me were these fascinating ideas — I think it’s important that students be fascinated by ideas.”

More than 15 years ago, Schlossman completely revised the syllabus of Physics 245, the fourth in a series of introductory classes required in physics majors and some engineering majors. He changed what had been a survey of many topics — waves, optics, fluids and thermodynamics — into an in-depth exploration of two concepts that form the foundation of much of modern physics: wave phenomena and thermal physics.

“Intro physics courses teach electromagnetism without the effect of temperature — essentially, zero-temperature physics,” Schlossman said. “Heat affects everything, but we [tend to] teach it separately.”

In addition to changing the course content, Schlossman pioneered innovative pedagogical methods and new technologies in the classroom. He introduced cooperative learning into a large introductory physics course. He adopted these methods based on then-new developments in the teaching of humanities and social sciences.

Recently, he has focused on incorporating applets, or interactive simulations, to enable “lab-at-home” experiments and deepen students’ understanding of the material.

In 2012, he became chair of the department’s educational policy committee, charged to improve the curriculum for physics majors. “We’ve completely transformed courses at the 200 level,” he said. “We want to form the foundation for upper-level courses and problems they’ll face in their professional lives as physicists or in other fields.”

The proposed revisions go to the senate committee on academic programming.

Schlossman says he knew he wanted to be a physicist — or a musician — since junior high or high school. He earned his bachelor’s in physics from MIT, and master’s and Ph.D. at Cornell University.

The former oboist did postdoctoral research at Harvard University and was a research scientist at the University of Chicago’s James Franck Institute before joining UIC in 1994.

Schlossman studies condensed-matter physics, using X-ray scattering to understand what atoms, molecules and ions do at liquid surfaces, especially of water. “Lots of things happen at the surface that are important to biology and industry,” he said. “It’s where you pull stuff out.”

Helping future computer scientists learn a new language

By Bill Burton — burton@uic.edu

Talk about your tough homework assignments: cybersecurity expert Venkat Venkatakrishnan says he routinely challenges computer science students with security problems that take them into “uncharted territory — even a language they haven’t learned.”

Venkatakrishnan, or “Professor Venkat,” as he is known, has scholarly interests in computer security and privacy, particularly the security of software systems, vulnerability analysis and automated approaches to preventing large-scale attacks on networks. It’s a sub-field that “spans the whole breadth” of computer science, he said.

“You must understand theory, how systems are constructed, and the nitty-gritty detail of what makes things work,” he said.

“Oh, break,” he added.

Venkat feels compelled to assign tasks in unfamiliar languages or settings because in computer security, knowledge and skills need to be cross-cutting across the breadth of computer science.

“I try to take the excitement of computer science, seen through the lens of computer security, into the classroom,” said Venkat, who has received numerous honors for both research and teaching. “I put a big problem, in all its complexity, to them, and let them approach the problem holistically.”

He does this by encouraging students to think about real-world problems that don’t have ready-made answers. He’ll ask the students to try to find security holes in the programs and websites they use every day. Sometimes, they succeed — and always promptly notify the site-owner of the vulnerability.

Venkat, who is professor of computer science, directs UIC’s Center for Research and Instruction in Technologies in Electronic Security. In 2009, he was the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER award for young researchers. Since joining the UIC faculty 11 years ago, he has introduced new courses and led the development of new cybersecurity concentrations at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels, according to department head Robert Sloan.

In 2010, Venkat led a team of 13 UIC faculty from four different colleges and six departments in creating an interdisciplinary graduate program in electronic security and privacy that received $3.2 million in funding under an NSF grant. NSF awarded funding to only 17 out of 450 proposals that year, Sloan said, and UIC’s was only the third such program in cybersecurity.

Venkat earned B.E. and M.Sc. degrees from Birla Institute of Technology and Science in India, and M.S. and Ph.D. in computer science from Stony Brook University.
GRACE HOLT CELEBRATION
Legacy luncheon in honor of founder of African American studies department. Featuring UIC alumna and filmmaker Nicole Franklin
Noon–2 p.m., African-American Cultural Center, AH
Keynote lecture by Charlene Carruthers of the Black Youth Project 100
4–5:30 p.m. / Hull-House Museum

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED ARGUMENTATION FROM SPATIAL DATA IN SCHOOLS
Nathan Phillips, Simeko Washington and Shawndra Allen, College of Education.
Civic Engagement Lunch Talks presented by the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement
Noon–1 p.m. / 1-470 Daley Library

JAZZ AT JAKS
Performance by UIC Jazz Combos
7 p.m.
Jaks Tap, 901 W. Jackson Blvd.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF WONDER WOMAN
Jill Lepore, history professor at Harvard University. Institute for the Humanities Visiting Fellows Lecture
4 p.m.
Conference Rooms, SSB

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Send information about campus events to Christy Levy, christyb@uic.edu
Want to contribute a story? Email Christy Levy, christyb@uic.edu

STUDENT VOICE

Mizzou activist talks hunger strike, making a difference

By Libby Goldrick — egoldr3@uic.edu

The University of Missouri is home to more than 30,000 students, but few are as well known as Jonathan Butler.

In October 2015, Butler incited a movement, first on his campus, then across the country. He organized an eight-day hunger strike in an effort to draw attention to the racial injustices black people face on and off campus, which ended with the resignation of Mizzou’s chancellor and president.

Butler is continuing the conversation on college campuses across the nation. He spoke with UIC students Feb. 18 in Student Center East as part of Black History Month events.

Butler’s first objective was to make the environment feel inclusive and intimate. The audience was encouraged to offer thoughts on racial disparities and sit closer to each other and the stage.

“If y’all want to clap, snap, whatever y’all wanna do, or boo, then we’ll work through this together,” he said.

Butler touched briefly on the hunger strike, but wanted to center the discussion on UIC students.

“[There’s] a lot more diversity [here] than what you can physically see at the University of Missouri, a big difference,” Butler said. “You guys have a lot of social activism. My question to you guys is what’s wrong then?”

One by one students rose to share their stories of discrimination. Students in attendance intently listened, some offering some encouragement.

Butler posed a question to the audience, one that set the theme for the rest of his speech: “What is your sacrifice for liberation and what is the consequence of your silence?”

Daniela Padilla, a peer mentor in Campus Housing, encourages her peers to get informed and speak out.

“A lot of people our age are still deciding what they believe in and what they don’t believe in,” Padilla said. “If you want to have something to say, you should be coming to these events and coming up with a conclusion instead of coming to the conclusion and not going to anything.”

Butler stressed the importance of having a voice.

“It’s up to us to find our role in this movement and fight for it,” Butler said. “Let me make it very clear. Nobody gets free until we all get free. All of our identities, all of our struggles, are united.”

“[There’s] a lot more diversity [here] than what you can physically see at the University of Missouri, a big difference,” Butler said. — Steve Scapardine © 2016 via Life Made Still
UIC Motorsports team captures checkered flag at Winter Baja event

The UIC Baja team took first place in an off-season snow race at Michigan Tech University. The team raced in temperatures that ranged from -3 to 8 degrees.

By David Staudacher — davidst@uic.edu

The freezing temperatures of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula couldn’t stop the red-hot UIC Baja team from capturing the checkered flag at the annual Winter Baja 2016 hosted by Michigan Tech University Feb. 13.

Along with the first-place trophy, the UIC team burned up the track with the fastest lap time of the day — 3 minutes and 10 seconds — and dethroned the Iowa team that won the race the previous three years.

“The entire field of teams was excited for the dynasty to be unseated. We hope this brings a renewed sense of fun to the competition,” said Justin Czok, president of UIC Motorsports, the College of Engineering’s student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

The off-season snow race is a team endurance event. The day started at a frigid -3 degrees at 7 a.m. with the tech inspection, and slowly warmed up to a chilling 8 degrees when the race concluded at 4 p.m.

A unique tradition that included eating pickled eggs confirmed the starting grid, and put UIC near the back of the pack. But persistent driving, efficient pit stops, and the dedication of the many people who built the car thrust them to the lead over 39 other cars.

“It was a feeling of disbelief when we first heard we were in the top five midway through the race,” Czok said. “As we watched our car climb in the standings over the course of the last three hours of the race, we saw our alumni near tears of joy to see how their work was being carried on by the current team.”

The Winter Baja is an opportunity for the team to refine its teamwork and prepare for the season of Society of Automotive Engineers competitions. The next race is in April at Tennessee Tech.

“It feels great to bring a trophy back to UIC,” said Baja captain Chris Dwyer.

“Everyone was motivated and did their part at the race, so our hard work definitely paid off.”

The Baja team is made up of mechanical and industrial engineering students Chris Dwyer, Matt Johnson, Maria Ruiz, Ben Silva, Taha Tayebali and Andrew Johnson; electrical and computer engineering student Justin Czok; computer science student Joseph Borowicz, and mechanical engineering alumni Jon Moser, Adam Miszta and Michelle Sentevski.

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Thompson Rooms
Student Center West

The forum will be webcast live at http://www.ustream.tv/channel/uic-meetings-and-conferences.

In accordance with HR Policy 805-03 - employees may be released from work without loss of pay to attend university-sponsored events, operations and coverage permitting and with prior supervisory approval.
SPORTS

Men’s basketball preps for league championship

By Dan Yopchick — yopchick@uic.edu

The Flames, who concluded the regular season Sunday, will turn their attention toward postseason play with the 2016 Horizon League men’s basketball championship set for Saturday.

For the second consecutive year, the Flames will play the Wright State Raiders in the opening round of the conference tournament at 4 p.m. Saturday in Detroit.

During the 2015 tournament, UIC erased a 19-point halftime deficit in the first round to post a 60-57 triumph at the UIC Pavilion. The Flames went on to knock off No. 3 Oakland in the second round before falling to No. 2 Green Bay in the semifinal game.

This season’s series between UIC and Wright State saw each team post a victory at home. Despite 29 points from freshman Dikembe Dixson, the Flames fell at the Nutter Center Jan. 24, 80-66. In the rematch at the UIC Pavilion Feb. 11, UIC was strong on the defensive end as the squad held the Raiders to a field-goal percentage of .265 in the second half during a 64-59 triumph. Dixson and sophomore Tai Odiase combined to score 44 of the team’s 64 points en route to Horizon League Freshman of the Week and Co-Player of the Week honors.

The winner of Saturday’s game will face the winner of the first-round match between No. 6 Detroit and No. 7 Youngstown State in the second round at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

#MotorCityMadness features nine games, with the first six games streaming on ESPN3. The semifinal games will be televised on ESPNU, and the championship game will be on ESPN or ESPN2.

UIC lost its final regular season game versus the Milwaukee Panthers Sunday, 98-85, at UWM Panther Arena.

Softball picks up wins at tournament

By Laura White — lwhite88@uic.edu

Senior Laura Swan stepped to the plate in the bottom of the seventh with two runners on and blasted the ball to center field to plate the game-winning run and give the UIC softball team (7-8) a 3-2 walkoff victory over UConn (3-11) Sunday at XS Tennis Field. The win allowed the Flames to close out the SCU Invitational with a 3-2 record.

UIC tallied seven hits with multi-hit efforts from Swan and freshman Lexi Watts, who recorded her fourth multi-hit game of the weekend. Sophomore Taylor Cairns and seniors Dana Capocci and LaRi Mitchell also added to the total.

With one out in the bottom of the first, Watts dropped a single to left field, then moved up to third on a double by Swan. Freshman Skylee James stepped to the plate and sent a fly ball into foul territory, allowing Watts to score.

UConn tied the score at 1-1 in the second.

Cairns led off the third with a walk, stole second and went to third on a liner off the pitcher by Watts, who then stole second. Two outs came before Capocci stepped to the plate and dropped an infield single to bring in Cairns.

The Huskies tied the score for a second time in the fifth.

Mitchell led off in the bottom of the seventh with a single, then advanced to third as Cairns laid down the sacrifice bunt but reached on a UConn error that put her on second. With two outs, Swan came to bat and belted the ball into center field, allowing Mitchell to score the game-winning run.

Junior Elaine Hefflin started her third game of the tournament and pitched five innings, struck out three, allowed no walks and gave up six hits. Redshirt-freshman Karissa Frazier entered at the start of the sixth and picked up her first win of the season as she did not give up a hit and struck out three in two frames.

The Flames are back in California this weekend for the San Diego Classic, co-hosted by San Diego and San Diego State.

FLAMES @ HOME

Wed. Mar. 2
Baseball vs. Northwestern
5:05 p.m. Granderson Stadium

Sat. Mar. 5
Women’s tennis vs. Iowa
11 a.m. XS Tennis Pavilion
Women’s basketball vs. Valparaiso
3 p.m. UIC Pavilion

UIC students free with i-card

WOMEN’S TENNIS TEAM ON A ROLL

By Jennifer Zoellick — jennz@uic.edu

The women’s tennis team (5-2) extended its win streak to three with a 4-3 victory over Northern Iowa (1-7) Sunday at XS Tennis. The two teams split singles play and UIC won two doubles matches to earn the deciding point.

UIC continues its homestand Saturday, hosting Iowa at 11 a.m. at XS Tennis.

Jackie Altansarnai fell to Jieke Stroobant across three sets in the No. 1 spot, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Ann-Sophie Hahn was defeated by Elvira Lopez in the No. 2 position, 6-4, 6-1. Oana Manole was brought down by UNI’s Astrid Santos in the No. 3 spot, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Melika LeBlanc was able to hold off Sydney Wolfe at No. 4 for a 7-5, 6-4 victory, while Rachel Le Comber bested Eve Small at No. 5, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, to win her sixth straight doubles match on the season. At No. 6, Bianca Zuzu won against Savanna Hunt, 6-0, 6-2, for her second singles victory of the weekend.

Manole and Le Comber came together for their fourth straight win as a combo, taking down Stroobant and Lopez in the No. 1 spot, 6-1. The No. 2 match between Hahn/LeBlanc and Santos/Wolfe went unfinished. Altansarnai and Zuzu earned their third straight duo victory, defeating Small and Hunt 6-3 at No. 3 doubles.

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