

From: "News from UIC-LAS" <UIC_Liberal_Arts_and_Sciences@xmr3.com>
Subject: Notes from the Dean -- UIC College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Date: Thu, March 13, 2008 2:09 pm
To: jhendry@uic.edu



NOTES FROM THE DEAN

UIC COLLEGE OF
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Dear Julia,

It's a great day in LAS! And perhaps, like me, you are starting to feel the anticipation of spring. Sunlight, longer days and the first bloom of the magnolias and daffodils all bring spring's vibrancy, hope, and renewal.

As I was preparing to share with you all the recent news from the College, I couldn't help but notice that spring has come early to our part of UIC. Our students, faculty, and alumni have enjoyed a semester of extraordinary successes—each grant, award, and publication like a seedling generating more promise, more growth for LAS. Amongst the highlights:

- The National Science Foundation has awarded \$3,000,000 to distinguished professor of Psychology and Education, James Pellegrino for a five-year study on two K-5 math programs, “Everyday Mathematics” and “Math Trailblazers.”
- In spring 2007, alum Carlos Simmerling (BA 1991, PhD 1994) won the top prize of \$50,000 in the Humanitarian Impact Innovation category from the Itanium Solutions Alliance. Currently an Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at SUNY Stonybrook, Simmerling has developed simulations for understanding the molecular basis of diseases like HIV.
- Two female assistant professors in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science—Alina Cojocar and Laura DeMarco—have earned NSF career awards this year. DeMarco also received a Sloan grant, a second confirmation that she is considered one of the top young mathematicians in the nation.
- The College has pledged \$100,000 per year for the next three years in seed money for fostering interdisciplinary scholarship across LAS. Faculty will be encouraged to submit research, conference, and classroom initiatives on interdisciplinary topics from Diaspora studies to nanotechnology. Faculty will break new ground in the subjects LAS covers, while forging collaborations with colleagues from other departments, and with

undergraduate students who will gain invaluable research skills.

- With a week to go before the deadline, we have already received a record number of applications for scholarships this year. Competition will be fierce. For example, nearly 615 deserving students have applied for the 20 scholarships available from the Dean's Office, with each of them qualifying for an average of 3.6 scholarships.
- LAS will raise \$61,920,000 through the Brilliant Futures Campaign currently underway. To date we have raised nearly \$18 million of that total, thanks to the assistance of our alumni, friends, and advocates.

Making a gift to the LAS annual fund is a wonderful way to have an immediate impact—on our many students seeking scholarships, and on our faculty forging new connections to the subjects they research and for the students they teach.

Nurturing this growth on a daily basis is one of the greatest honors and joys I have as dean. I welcome you to join me in contributing to this exciting time for UIC and the College.

Warm Regards,
Dwight A. McBride, Ph.D.
Dean

To get involved or find out more, please contact:
KJ Hardy, LAS Office of Advancement
University Hall MC 228, 601 South Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-1898
kihardy@uic.edu <http://connect.las.uic.edu>



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