

# ANNUAL REPORT



**UIC** UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO

FY 2006



## The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Fundamental to the work and mission of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) at UIC is the premise that learning and growth extend well beyond the traditional classroom walls. Attending college involves more than just developing intellect; it also includes physical, emotional, and interpersonal development. These understandings are the foundation for the services provided, opportunities presented, and environments created through the

work of the many staff members who compose Student Affairs at UIC. The essence of intentional student learning and development is the interaction between the student and the educational environment. Multiple aspects of the student's life are addressed, and the environmental resources both challenge the student and give the support needed to meet these challenges so that more advanced levels of development result.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is responsible primarily for student life at UIC

and works in partnership with Academic Affairs to ensure the continuity of learning in and out of the classroom. The work of the OVCSA includes the provision of support services, programs, and amenities that encourage student success and sustain residential and commuter life; crisis intervention twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and the operation of student support facilities twenty-four hours a day. The importance of a supportive, safe, and nurturing environment for students is integral to the work of Student Affairs.





## Mission Statement

UIC Student Affairs enhances learning and development through programs, services, and facilities that engage students in a dynamic and diverse campus community and foster lifelong success to the benefit of society.

- Student Affairs provides access to excellence by offering students a wide range of out-of-class experiences that build skills in preparation for high levels of academic endeavor and life in a community of scholars. Student Affairs works to remove barriers to success and, in partnership with other campus units, prepares students for life in a technologically challenging and diverse global community.
- Student Affairs incorporates excellence and innovation in the delivery of programs, services, and facilities.
- Student Affairs matches individual student goals for success with appropriate programs and services.
- Student Affairs enhances the quality of campus life for all students and for the faculty, staff, parents, and friends who nurture students' dreams and aspirations.

## Student Affairs Units

The OVCSA, under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Barbara Henley, includes units responsible for providing services, programs, and facilities that support student development and success. The units are as follows:

- Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)
- African American Academic Network (AAAN)
- Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS)
- Campus Housing
- Career Services
- Children's Center
- Counseling Center
- Dining Services
- Educational Opportunity Outreach/TRIO Programs
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- International Services
- Native American Support Program (NASP)
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Publications Services
- Retail Operations
- Student Development Services
- Student Financial Aid
- Student Legal Services
- UIC Student Centers
- UIC Pavilion

## Improving Undergraduate Retention and Graduation: Facilitating Academic Success

Academic success does not stop at the classroom door. Student academic success is the goal of the network of services, academic support programs, and out-of-class activities that underpin the university's academic, research, and community service missions. The array of student- and campus-life services and facilities designed to address student needs from orientation through graduation contributes to student persistence and academic achievement, as well as providing UIC students



with a complete college experience comparable to other nationally recognized institutions.

### **Accomplishments:**

- New freshmen using AAAN services during the 2004-2005 academic year experienced a one-year retention rate 17 percent higher than the retention rate of the African-American students who did not use AAAN services.
- Campus graduation rate increased for fall 2000 cohort.

### **Student Learning and Engagement: Beyond the Classroom Walls**

Learning opportunities outside the classroom allow students to integrate knowledge acquired in the classroom with practical experiences to promote personal growth and development. Participation in cultural, educational, social, and recreational programs permits students to explore ideas and attitudes to develop a broader perspective and a deeper understanding of the global community. Research shows that students who take advantage of out-of-class activities are more likely to get higher grades and persist to graduation.

Student employment, graduate assistantship, and internship opportunities are designed to assist in the development of important skills that enhance academic achievements, help students afford the costs of attending UIC, and provide a solid foundation for transitioning to the career world.

### **Accomplishments:**

- 2,635 UIC students were employed on campus in April 2006, representing a 3.1 percent increase over the previous year.
- 6,017 students were involved in leadership and volunteer activities offered by Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services, Campus Programs, Campus Housing, and Athletics, representing a 98 percent increase in student participation in student involvement activities and volunteerism from FY 2005.
- Of student leaders who have been involved in cocurricular activities for at least one year, over 90 percent report that their experience had positive impact of on their ability to: work in teams, appreciate differences, communicate effectively, resolve conflict, build relationships, make decisions, and lead groups.





- Over 40 percent of our student athletes maintained a B average or better during 2005-2006.

### **Improving the Quality of Campus Life: Community at UIC and Beyond**

Connecting with community contributes to academic and personal success. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs offers a variety of programs and services that build a solid foundation for a vibrant community of scholars at UIC. Resident and commuter students participate in activities and organizations that are the fabric of UIC's diverse campus community. Students from many backgrounds explore cultural and ethnic arts and customs through numerous educational and social events, as well as through casual interaction. Creation of traditions and common experiences establish a unique identity for UIC, fostering a sense of purpose and belonging.

Athletics has become a significant aspect of student life. The continued and growing success of UIC's athletic programs is symbolic of the institutional transformation that the campus has experienced over the past three decades. The development of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (UIC Athletics) parallels the emergence

of the campus as a nationally recognized university.

Utilizing the metropolitan area as a laboratory, students engage in the larger community through student work-study jobs, internships, service projects, and cultural events. Student Affairs facilitates opportunities for participation by individuals and student groups throughout the Chicago area.

#### **Accomplishments:**

- The Office of the Dean of Students undertook a number of initiatives in collaboration with UIC Police and community organizations to encourage students to be good neighbors and responsible citizens. As a result, the number of concerns and complaints from the community and neighbors adjacent to UIC decreased during 2006.
- Attendance at men's basketball games increased approximately 10 percent over the previous season and has nearly doubled since the 2001-02 season.



## Improving the Quality of Campus Life: Home Away from Home

Student life at UIC continues to be enhanced through several major infrastructure initiatives that began in 1997. The need for adequate athletic training facilities and the demand for student housing became catalysts for improvements. The momentum gained through these enhancements set the stage for an ambitious campus-life facility construction program. Infrastructure improvements of approximately \$275 million have included new construction and renovation projects designed to meet the needs of today's students.

The campus-life facility enhancements, combined with academic support programs and other services, are designed to contribute to student retention and graduation. Since launching the vigorous program of construction and renovation, student retention has improved.

### Accomplishments:

- The new recreation facility opened on March 27, 2006, and experiences 2,000 visits per day.
- The Illinois Room renovation was completed in February 2006.



- Renovation of the Student Residence Hall, originally opened in 1950, began in May 2006, and the building reopened in January 2007.
- The number of retail leases on the south campus increased by 13.

## **Increasing Revenue from External Sources**

Declining state resources impact departments throughout the university. To minimize the effects of fiscal constraints on Student Affairs units, proactive grant-writing and fundraising initiatives are in progress. New program growth, as well as preservation of vital support services, is dependent on the generation of external revenue. While development efforts are in their infancy, several successful inroads have been made in this area.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Underwriting was secured from four corporations for the 2005 Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Benefit. Revenue was increased by 100 percent. Attendance increased by approximately 35 percent.



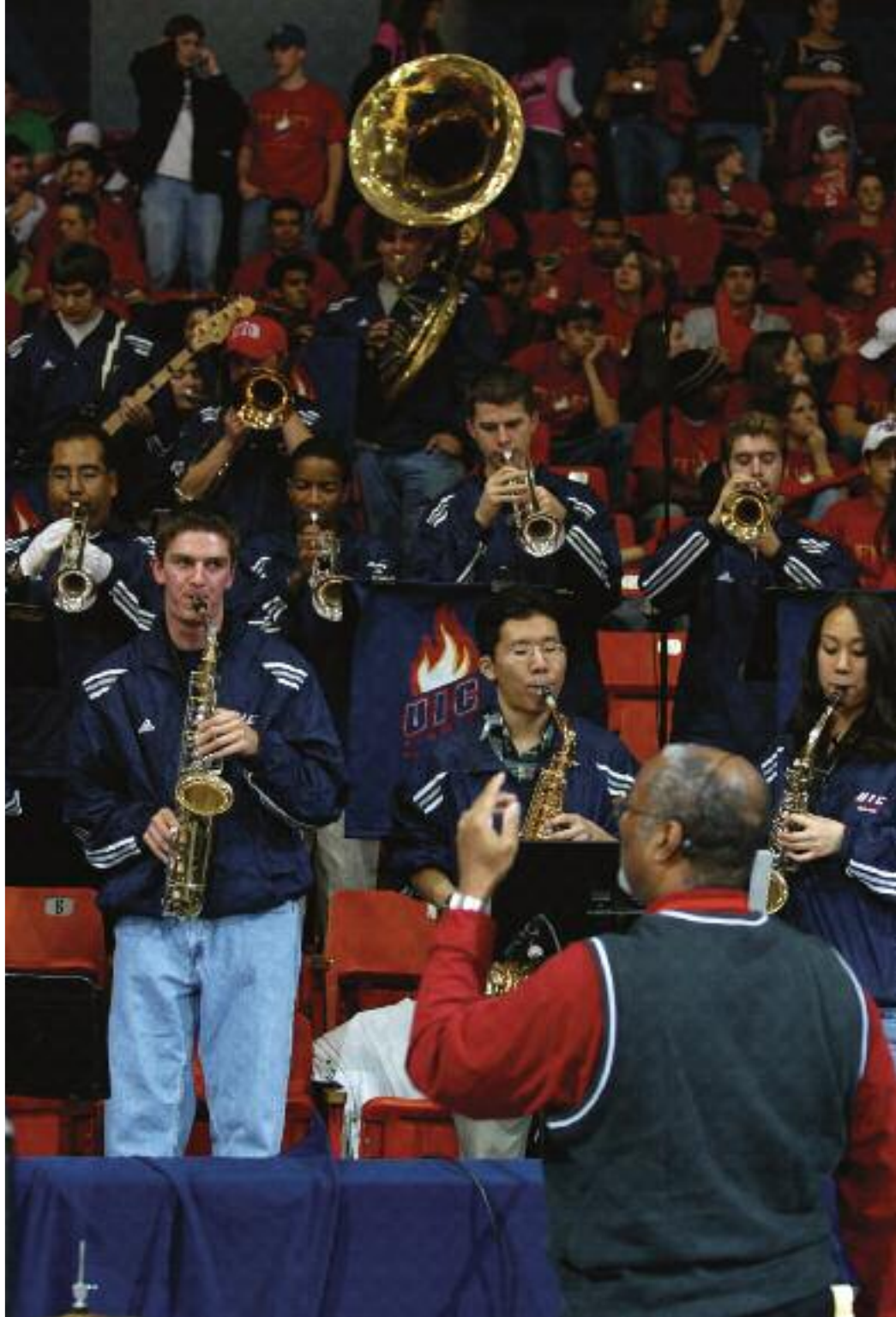


- Revenue from regular memberships at the two recreation facilities for faculty, staff, alumni, affiliates, and the community increased by 79.6 percent from FY 2005 to FY 2006, due to the opening of new state-of-the-art facilities.
- Ticket sales for men's basketball increased 16 percent, corporate sponsorships increased by 11 percent, and foundation giving increased by 10 percent.
- Student Affairs developed a comprehensive 2006-2007 plan for fundraising in consultation with campus development and University of Illinois Foundation staff. The plan will be the Student Affairs component of the University of Illinois multiyear campaign.

facility construction projects take shape for occupancy in the summer of 2007, the strategic plan developed during FY 2006 will set the course for the future. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will continue to impact student life at UIC by implementing initiatives that enhance student learning opportunities through academic support services, student employment, volunteer participation, and in various other out-of-class activities, including all that a world-class city and rich urban environment have to offer.

### **Planning Strategically**

The initiatives that have been developed for FY 2007 focus on and expand efforts to improve undergraduate student retention and graduation, to improve the quality of student life, and to increase revenue from entrepreneurial and fund-raising activities. As current student-life-



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