

THE PULSE

A UIC Student Affairs ePublication

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WHAT'S YOUR IMPACT?

UIC Impact is the framework for students to enrich and enhance their academic, professional, and personal growth through high impact student engagement opportunities, such as leadership and involvement, research, sustainability, civic engagement and social justice, diversity and career development. Partnering with numerous departments within Student Affairs (Human Resources and Career Services, just to name a few), UIC Impact allows students the opportunity to develop core competencies and leadership skills needed to be successful, global citizens, personally, professionally and within the community.

The UIC Experience, a program based on the student success initiative focused on student retention, graduation and fostering a productive student college experience, gave birth to the development of UIC Impact. Researching national standards and assessment of the program, along with the new direction in which the university was headed, contributed to the need of creating UIC Impact. "The programs that were more successful from The UIC Experience were ones that had high impact engagement," says Jill Rothamer-Wallenfeldt, Director of UIC Impact. "We kept what worked for UIC Experience and then expanded into UIC Impact."

Available for all students to participate, UIC Impact currently has over 330 Impact Scholars with 212 students graduating in May with the distinct honor of wearing the royal blue graduation cord during graduation ceremony. In addition to becoming an Impact Scholar, students cultivate presentation skills by participating in the annual UIC Impact Day. One of the ultimate goals of UIC Impact is to increase student presence. "We want every student who enters and have graduated from the university to have participated in at least two high impact engagement experiences during their time here at the university," says Allen Womble, Associate Director of UIC Impact. Impact engagement experiences can be gained through coursework, community involvement as well as professional employment opportunities for students within the university.

UIC Impact affords the opportunity for students employed through Student Affairs to engage in high impact engagement experience in their employment. Partnering with Human Resources and Career Services, Flames Employers, a component of UIC Impact, was developed to allow students the opportunity to work within Student Affairs departments and gain professional development to round out the student employment experience, thanks to UIC Impact. Because not every department has the time, energy or resources to offer professional development, UIC Impact gladly assists with enhancing students' professional engagement



continued on page 3

STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF DEVELOPMENT SERIES

UIC STARTS WITH US: CULTIVATING COLLABORATION



End the academic year with a bang by connecting with colleagues at the Spring 2017 Student Affairs Staff Development Series: UIC Starts with US: Cultivating Collaboration, May 17–18. Developed to showcase that importance of employees' interest in professional development and provide the opportunity to

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

spotlight

need to know

in case you missed it

shout-out to the crew

eye candy

one more thing...

SPOTLIGHT



SPENCER LONG Associate Director, Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services (SLDVS)

1. What do you consider your greatest achievement? *Personally, when I achieved Eagle Scout. I'm still involved a lot with the Eagle Scouts in Chicago. At UIC, my proudest achievement is the work we've accomplished in this office (SLDVS). We've brought a lot of life back to Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services and have a lot of new programs.*
2. What is your most treasured possession? *I have pretty cool stuff, lapel pins from both of my grandfathers. But experiences that I share with people are my most non-physical treasured "possessions".*
3. What is your favorite thing about your career? *I've gotten to do a lot of different things. I've been able to travel to different conferences, meet so many unique people. I've lived in 3 completely different parts of the country and experienced different cultures and food. I like the variety of being able to do different things every day. In my current role, I work with alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students, so every experience is unique.*
4. What is your most marked characteristic? *People would say "being friendly". I try to have a smile on my face. I treat people with respect, the way I'd want to be treated. "A get stuff done kind of guy", but I try to get it done in a fun way and be friendly in the process.*

5. Which talent would you most like to have? *I would like to sing, but I definitely can't. I always find that when people sing, they're bringing joy to other people. I like to dabble in karaoke once in a while, but that's the extent of my singing ability (New York, New York is the go-to song).*
6. If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be? *Secret Service driver, to be able to drive fast and being able to see what it's like on the inside.*
7. Which living person do you most admire? *I admire my mom...she's a cancer survivor, really hard worker (retired now). Her outlook on life is really positive. She always finds a way to make things happen for what we wanted to try. My mom always puts things in perspective...if you're having a bad day, you can always call her and she'll find a way to turn the bad day into a positive one.*
8. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? *I love to work, so I'd like to learn how to relax better.*
9. What is your motto? *[From Eagle Scouts], do your best. Do the best work that I can, not only for my self satisfaction; it's what our students and university deserves.*
10. What is the department's mission? *Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services helps provide students with leadership skills that will help them both on campus and after they graduate. We want them to leave with soft skills to take to their workplace to be leaders. We look at every student on campus as a leader. We help them define what that means to them and how they may lead at different points in different ways in their leadership. On the services side, we instill in students the values to be lifelong active citizen. We want them to learn and value the importance of volunteering and giving back to their communities. We also want them to be conscientious and active citizens – not just volunteering, but educating themselves about the non-profits with which they are volunteering. We want them to think about where they buy their groceries, baked goods, where they choose to go to dinner (national chains vs. local diners) and the impact that these choices have on the community. Being registered to vote, the impact of voting,*

and being educated on issues going on in their communities all points towards having representation that they've had a say in.

11. What is the future of Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services? *We've got a good base right now, great leadership programs and services programs happening. The future is in strategic partnerships with neighborhoods and reciprocal relationships, so not just providing service to non-profits, but also to what students can learn in the process of giving back. One dream I have is to have a leadership and service scholarship, which we actually recruit students to the university based on leadership or service involvement in high school. The students would come here to be leaders and help lead efforts; in peer-to-peer mentoring, they would educate students as well. We're intimately involved in helping the university achieve its Carnegie Community Engagement designation, a project that we want to ensure we're working towards.*

UIC IMPACT

continued from page 1

while fostering partnerships within Student Affairs.

Raising awareness and complete understanding of the UIC Impact program from the university's staff and student perspectives, as well as increased participation in the program from the students, are future plans for UIC Impact. The program has grown tremendously within the past year and Jill and her team has high hopes for further engagement and involvement. She also plans to provide a comprehensive campus-wide list of all high impact engagement experiences, to provide a better understanding for students so that they can see how UIC Impact is conveniently tied to their co-curricular coursework. "There is a co-curricular piece where they might be doing an internship along with the class," says Rothamer-Wallenfledt. "So, their co-curricular piece can be acknowledged through UIC Impact and on their co-curricular transcript."

For more information on UIC Impact, click [HERE](#).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT SERIES

continued from page 1

attend professional development conferences that are not offsite, the 2-day Student Affairs Development Series offers Student Affairs employees the opportunity to learn successful conflict resolution management, team building strategies and effective collaboration to enhance planning for the upcoming summer months.

This semester's professional development theme, UIC Starts with US: Cultivating Collaboration, is an extension of the series' theme for August 2017, UIC Starts with You, which focused on enhancing individual professional development. "As Student Affairs goes through changes, we hope that we can learn from each other," says Rhonda Laylo, Executive Assistant, Student Affairs Campus Auxiliary Services. "Collaboration allows us to better use our resources."

Registration for the Student Affairs Staff Development Series is required. For additional information on the sessions and to register, click [HERE](#).

NEED TO KNOW

May 1-5

SPRING SEMESTER FINALS WEEK

May 3-7

UIC COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

UIC Forum, UIC Pavilion, and off-campus locations. For details, click [HERE](#).

May 15-June 4

SUMMER SESSION (4-WEEK)

For details, click [HERE](#).

May 17-18

SPRING 2017 STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF DEVELOPMENT SERIES

UIC Starts with US: Cultivating Collaboration. For session descriptions and event registration, click [HERE](#).

May 19

ANNUAL STUDENT AFFAIRS AWARDS & RECOGNITION PROGRAM

1:00PM-4:00PM

UIC Forum

To nominate colleagues by **MAY 5**, click [HERE](#). **RSVP** to attend [HERE](#).

May 19-July 27

SUMMERDANCE

Thursdays

12:00PM-1:30PM

LC Quad

Learn a dance, then show your moves!

For details, click [HERE](#).

May 24-July 27

TRANSFER & READMIT STUDENT ORIENTATION

For details, click [HERE](#).

May 29

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

ACUI Poetry Slam

April 12-15

Lyrical poets abound



45th Annual Chancellor's Student Leadership Awards (CSSLA) Ceremony

April 20

Video of full ceremony below



SHOUT-OUT TO THE CREW

NEW HIRES

RUDY MOLINA

Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

SAMANTHA SOTO

Housing Representative, Campus Housing

EYECANDY

SHOWCASING THE CREATIVE WORK OF STUDENT AFFAIRS MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



ONE MORE THING...

STUDENT AFFAIRS CALENDAR

Now you can see Student Affairs events/deadlines/etc. posted in your Outlook calendar. For instructions on adding the calendar to your Outlook mailbox, click [HERE](#). Please contact Student Affairs Technology at any time for help at SATECH@UIC.EDU.



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