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From Navy Pier to Here: A UIC History Discussion

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UIC and the Near West Side
The Origins of UIC

1859 Chicago College of Pharmacy -- first unit in what would become UIC

1867 Founding of University of Illinois, Urbana

1882 Founding of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago

1896 Affiliation of Physicians and Surgeons with U of I; Incorporation in 1913

1897 U of I at the Medical Center, UIMC

1946 Chicago Undergraduate Division, at Navy Pier

1965 U of I, Chicago Circle Campus, UICC

1982 University of Illinois at Chicago, consolidation of UICC and UIMC
Morrill (Turner) Act of 1862 provided federal land grants for colleges of agriculture and the “mechanic arts”
The Chicago Professional Colleges

Chicago College of Pharmacy, 1859

College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1882
Physicians and Surgeons bacteriology lab, c.1897

Physicians and Surgeons
Professor and Surgeon
J. B. Murphy at his clinic, 1898
TRIVIA QUESTION

What two colors would you use for a college of medicine athletic program, chocolate brown and...?
Chicago “White Stockings,” which became the Cubs, won the World Series in 1907 and 1908, played at the West Side Grounds (Polk & Wolcott).
Illinois Medical District, created in 1941
Chicago Undergraduate Division
Navy Pier, 1946-1965
Naval Training Schools
Navy Pier, Chicago
1941-1946

Aviation Machinist Mates trained at one of Navy Pier’s four service schools (Aviation, Diesel, Advanced Radio Material, & Advanced Electronics)

USS Sable, one of the two training aircraft carriers that docked just south of Navy Pier
“Defense Plant Corporation”
war surplus equipment
Swimming and Fishing Classes at the Pier

Homecoming at UIC, 1951
Frank Lloyd Wright, visiting Navy Pier, October 1948
TRIVIA QUESTION

University of Illinois was originally offered to what city?
All roads lead to Urbana?
The Drive for a University

Quad Council Agitates for a Four Year Campus, 1950

Mile Long Petition, 1953
Bond Issue Torch Run, Fall 1960

Creating a Permanent Campus 1955-1965

Navy Pier Students meeting with Mayor Richard J. Daley, 1961
The Site Decision:
Where to put the new campus?
The Near West Side
And
Hull House: Chicago’s “Ellis Island”

The Object of Hull House: to provide a center for a higher civic and social life; to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises; and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial
Neighborhood women protest the site decision, February 1961

Florence Scala and Hull House, May 1963

The Site Protests
DON'T CHEAT
OUR KIDS
OUT OF COLLEGE!

VOTE ON THE UNIVERSITIES BOND ISSUE
YES
PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S RIGHT TO A COLLEGE EDUCATION!

There is not enough room for the postwar baby crop that is storming the gates of our 6 state supported universities. This crisis in higher education can be met by the passage of the Universities Bond Issue. We must not cheat Illinois youth out of educational opportunities that are required in a world growing fantastically more complex and where citizenship of the highest order is necessary for survival.

IT'S A VOTE AGAINST A TAX BOOST!

No informed person is against providing these new facilities. If the bond issue passes, existing taxes will pay it off. If it fails, Illinois will then be forced to pay the entire bill immediately. This would mean higher taxes now. Avoid higher taxes by voting for the Universities Bond Issue.

Both Parties Say "Vote Yes!"

The 1960 State Platforms of both political parties urge everyone to approve the Universities Bond Issue. Leading newspapers and prominent civic, labor, business, tax, veteran and educational groups say it's the only way to meet the crisis without raising taxes. Endorsed by 54 statewide organizations.
Designing the New Campus

Architect and designer of Circle Campus, Walter Netsch

Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs
Circle Campus Master Plan, 1961
TRIVIA QUESTION

Behavioral Sciences Building (BSB) is laid out as such because?
Spiraling walkways and massive amounts of concrete became the campus' architectural signature.
The Great Court at Circle Campus,
University Hall and the Express Walkways

The Library
TRIVIA QUESTION

University Hall is built slender on the bottom and wider on the top for what purpose?
First Drama in Circle Forum:  
*Antigone*, October 1965

Homecoming Queens  
1967 and 1968
UICC “Chikas” Football

St. Patrick’s Day Parade, 1965
President David Henry (right) and the administrative team behind University expansion in the 1960s

Liberal Arts and Sciences Department Chairs, 1965
“The Gentlemen’s Agreement”

“Fortress Illini”
Circle’s “Urban Mission”

University Administrator James Holderman and the West Side Organization

Chancellor Norman Parker
UICC and the Daley Administration

UICC Political Science Professor and Chicago Alderman Dick Simpson

UICC Political Science Professor Milton Rakove
Circle in the 1970s or, why we don’t call it Circle anymore!

“A 10-year identity crisis
Circle: university in name only?”

“The University of Illinois Chicago Circle, now 10 years old, is still mired in confusion over what it means to be an urban university. ... Circle is adrift.”

Chicago Sun-Times, 1975
“The role I played in establishing this campus is my greatest contribution to the life of the city.”
Mayor Richard J. Daley
Governor James Thompson, Navy Pier Alumnus

Consolidation of Circle Campus and the Medical Center
September 1982

The University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago Mayor Harold Washington at anniversary party for UIC
UIC since 1982:

- Carnegie Research I: One of top 50 research universities in the nation
- Campus Residence Halls
- Student Demographics and Diversity
- “Greening of UIC” Campus Core Renovation
- Great Cities Commitment, 1995-present
- Academic Renewal
  - Honors College & Admission Standards (1982)
  - Guaranteed Professional Program Admission (1995)
  - Faculty Development (1998)
- Athletics
  - Division I Status (1981) and UIC Pavilion (1982)
- South Campus Development Project
Carnegie Research I: 1987 -- Carnegie Foundation Classification

Molecular Biology Research Building

Electronic Visualization Laboratory
Residence Halls: 1988 --
UIC Undergraduate Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2015

- White 34%
- Latinx 28%
- Asian American 22%
- African American 8%
- Other 5%
- International 3%

Source: Office of Institutional Research, Fall 2015.

White—34%, Latinx—28%, Asian American—22%, African American—8%, International—3%, Other—5%.
Campus Core Revitalization
and the Great Court
“deconstruction” 1993

Campus Core Renovation: 1993-1998

New Campus Core, 1995
Great Cities Commitment: 1995 --

“Just as universities make great cities, a great city makes a great university”
Mayor Richard J. Daley, 1963

Public Health and Neighborhood Outreach

UIC and Chicago Public Schools
Academic Renewal

- Honors College, 1982
- GPPA, 1996
- Stanley Fish, 1999

Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dean Stanley Fish

THE CHRONICLE
of Higher Education.
Athletics

Division I Status Aids Recruitment, exemplified by Sherell Ford

Credit Union 1 Arena (formerly the UIC Pavilion)
TRIVIA QUESTION

What were possible names for UIC Athletics proposed in 1982?
Emphasis on Men’s Basketball, 1996

“Sweet Success”
NCAA Tournament:
NIT Tournament:
2003
Flames Athletic Center

FAC is the first privately funded building on campus and a major asset for UIC Athletics.
Flames Athletes In the Pros

Former Flames soccer player Jay DeMerit playing for Watford in England was featured in *Sports Illustrated*.

Former Flames outfielder Curtis Granderson led the resurgence of the Detroit Tigers in 2006. He is the first UIC athlete to play in the World Series.
Maxwell Street 1960s
Student Residence Halls, Halsted Street
South Campus Development

Thomas Beckham Residence Hall, Halsted Street

James J. Stukel Towers Residence Hall and UIC Forum, from Dan Ryan Expressway
UIC Expansion

Regional Medical Sites 1971: Rockford, Peoria, & Urbana
Regional Nursing: Quad Cities

UIC Master Plan
Academic & Residential Complex - 2019

Chicago's Only Public Law School
Some Notable UIC Alumni:

Carol Mosley-Braun, UICC 1969, served as the first African American female U.S. Senator. She ran for president in 2004.

Jim Thompson, longest serving Illinois Governor and member of the 911 Commission, is a Pier graduate.

- Andy Shaw, Political Reporter (ABC 7 News)
- Bernard Shaw, Anchor Emeritus for Cable New Network (CNN)
- Michael Gross, Actor (Family Ties, 1980s NBC)
- Tonya Francisco, Anchor, (CLTV NEWS)
- John Chancellor, National Anchor (NBC Nightly News)
- Robert Mariano (founder/owner of Marianos)
- Mary Dillon, CEO of Ulta Beauty
- Curtis Granderson, Baseball Player
Thank You!
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