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THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Untold Stories of UIC

Jason Marcus Waak, BA ‘96, M.Ed ‘98
Former Assistant Director, Office of the UIC Historian
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
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 districts of Chicago.
How has UIC carried on Jane Addams’ work with juveniles?

The world’s first juvenile court opened across from Hull House in July 1899 at Polk and Halsted streets. To provide oversight and advocacy, a group of women residents from Hull House, including Jane Addams and Jessie Birford, founded the Juvenile Protective Association in 1907. JPA symbolized Addams’ optimism and goal of safeguarding Chicago’s children. Within a generation, juvenile courts based on this model were established throughout the U.S.

In 1909, the Hull House women established the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute. Later renamed the Institute for Juvenile Research, the group studied delinquents’ IQ as well as social factors. In 1990, JPI was incorporated into the UIC College of Medicine’s Dept. of Psychiatry. Consisting of 40 faculty members, JPI addresses issues such as HIV risk and the epidemiology of drug abuse. It also offers child psychiatry clinical services and training programs in psychiatry. —JASON MARCUS WAAK

Contributing Editor Jason Marcus Waak, ’96 LAS, MED ’98, previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, the Navy Pier Campus and student government.

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Why was there a campus phone installed at Hawkeye’s Bar & Grill?

Dr. Richard “Dick” Ward was responsible for the UIC campus phone at Hawkeye’s Bar & Grill, 1458 W. Taylor. The reason: Ward liked to conduct business during the afternoon from Hawkeye’s while serving as vice chancellor of administration. The phone was removed from Hawkeye’s in 2003.

As UICC’s baseball head coach (1980-82), Ward also had a campus phone installed in the dugout at Flames Field. This enabled him to complete his teaching and research while helping to save the baseball program, which was slated for elimination. Ward cast a giant shadow on UIC Athletics, helping shepherd the move to Division I competition and playing a major role in the construction of the Pavilion.

Previously a New York City police officer/detective, Ward came to UIC in 1977 from John Jay College. He went on to become a legend in the world of criminal justice.

Having served 16 years as vice chancellor, Ward was inducted into the UIC Athletics Hall of Fame in 1992. He passed away earlier this year.

—Jason Marcus Wask

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1984

Field of Dreams

In this home run! In this home! No, it's Flames Field at the corner of Harvard and Roosevelt where former UIC baseball players gathered to play an old timer's game in May 1984. Participants spanned the era from New Port to Circle Campus to UIC—then, the diversity of uniform shown in this group photo, for some of these former UIC players, Flames Field was the place where dreams came true. Unlike the real setting in the 1989 movie, this urban baseball field was known for how efficiently it drained water after a storm. The secret was the flow into abandoned basements in the area.

1992

Grand Slam

A Flames slugger drives the ball long at Flames Field, located at the corner of Halsted St. and Roosevelt Rd. In 1996, the team relocated to Les Miller Field, named in honor of former baseball Head Coach Les Miller, who coached 31 years at UIC. The Flames will move recently to Curtis Granderson Stadium, a new facility funded by New York Yankees centerfielder and UIC alumnus Curtis Granderson '99 as aubs. Construction of the new 1,209-seat brick and stone-clad ballpark is slated for Fall 2013.
Curtis Granderson

Former Flames outfielder Curtis Granderson played 16 seasons for 7 teams. He led the resurgence of the Detroit Tigers in 2006 becoming the first UIC athlete to play in the World Series. He returned as New York Met in 2015. He is recognized for his humanitarian efforts and is an ambassador for MLB & UIC.
Athletics

Credit Union 1 Arena (formerly the UIC Pavilion)

Division I Status Aids Recruitment, exemplified by Sherell Ford
Flames Athletic Center

FAC is the first privately funded building on campus and a major asset for UIC Athletics.
The Unabomber's first attempt to detonate a bomb occurred in May 1978. A package bearing the name and return address of a Northwestern engineering professor was found in a parking lot near UIC's Science and Engineering South Building. It was returned to the Evanston campus where it exploded while being inspected by a campus police office. This was the first of 16 bombs delivered by the terrorist, which resulted in three deaths.

Unabomber was the name given Ted Kaczynski because his initial targets were associated with universities and the airlines. The FBI suspected him of being a former UIC student. In reality, he grew up in suburban Chicago and attended Evergreen Park Community High School. Kaczynski graduated from Harvard University in 1962 at age 20, and received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Michigan.

After offering $1 million for leads in the case, the FBI received 1,000 calls a day for months. The 18-year manhunt ended with the April 3, 1996, arrest of Kaczynski in rural Montana. —Jason Waak
What's UIC's connection to Star Wars?

Director George Lucas hired Larry Cuba, a research associate working in UIC's Science and Engineering Lab, to help create the groundbreaking special effects of the original Star Wars, also known as Episode IV: A New Hope. Released on May 25, 1977, the movie became an international pop culture phenomenon.

Back then, 3-D computer animation was an emerging technology. Working in Circle Graphics Habitat (now known as the Electronic Visualization Laboratory), Cuba used what was then cutting-edge computer animation to help create the sequence in which the attacking X-Wing fighters fly through the trench of the Death Star.

An original piece of the Death Star sequence is on display at EVL. "At the time, the piece wasn't worth anything because no one knew that George Lucas was going to become famous," says Jason Leigh, PhD '98 eng, former EVL director. "After the special effects were done, they left it behind. It has been here at UIC for more than 30 years."

—Jason Marcus Waak

Contributing Editor Jason Marcus Waak '96 LAS, MED '98, previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, Navy Pier Campus and student government.

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What impact did World War II have on UIC’s Department of Occupational Therapy?

World War II had a lasting impact. In fact, several University initiatives arose in response to the need to treat wounded servicemen. In May 1944, the Surgeon General selected the University of Illinois as the first to offer an emergency war course to train therapists for Army hospitals. Due to these activities, many people working in the military medical system at war’s end were products of U of I.

In 1942, volunteers from the Medical Center established the 27th Evacuation Hospital, which was used in the European Theater of Operations until 1945. Also, in response to the massive influx of veteran students, the University set up two temporary campuses in 1946, one located in Galesburg, Ill., on the site of the former Mayo General Hospital. Although active for only three years, this campus served many people with disabilities.

Dean of Medicine Raymond B. Allen boasted that cooperation between the Urbana and Chicago faculties trained specialists “for the great convalescent and rehabilitation programs of the armed services.” —Jason Marcus Waak

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Call of duty

From 1942 to 1945, the 27th Evacuation Hospital provided emergency care for wounded World War II soldiers in the 7th Army. Staffed by Rush Medical College and the University of Illinois Colleges of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medicine, the 750-bed mobile field hospital functioned in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Lt. Col. Charles Puestow, associate professor of surgery, served as the hospital’s commanding officer.

—Heather Hoffman

27th Evac Hospital
Did UIC ever have its own radio station?

Yes. Overseen by the Dept. of Communications, WUIC broadcast at 88.1 FM from July 1975 to November 1982. Students with various majors served as on-air personalities, and filled production and administrative positions. They produced musical shows as well as news and public affairs programming.

Because of technical shortcomings and a lack of resources for needed upgrades, the license was sold to Columbia College, which began broadcasting as WCRX. In the late 1990s, students launched a Web-based radio station independent of the University, and attempted to secure affiliation and funding from UIC. The Campus Union Board vetoed this venture in 1998 because it did not provide enough oversight by the campus. Work then began to start an operation within the Student Centers.

In the early 2000s, an Internet radio station was initiated—overseen by the Campus Programs Department, under the leadership of Jill Rothamer-Wallenfeldt MA ’99 AA. The station currently streams at www.uicradio.org.

—Jason Waak

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A vibrant social life was part of UIC’s predecessor campuses: Navy Pier and Chicago Circle. The former’s tight-knit student body held high-school-inspired activities such as sock hops and “Coke” dances, while the latter’s Circle Center Board sponsored rock concerts, dances and social mixers at Student Center East (formerly CCC). By the 1980s, student organizations, such as the Latin American Student Organization and Kalahi Filipino Club, were hosting parties and DJ battles.

In the Fall of 1991, several incidents of gunfire outside West Campus social events led to a virtual end to on-campus parties and resulted in a near decade of students holding college dance parties at such venues as Loyola’s “Rambler Room” and Chinatown’s Furama Ballroom.

Party-ban policy was slowly rolled back in the early 2000s. By 2003, student-organized dances returned to UIC’s Inner Circle, but security costs make them rare events.

—Jason Waak
1990

AINT NOTHIN’ BUT THE BLUES

A 25-year tradition, the UIC Blues Cabaret has featured Chicago-based blues artists ranging from Billy Branch '74 Las to Byther Smith. “The city is unofficially considered the ‘Home of the Blues,’” says Booker T. Suggs, past director of UIC Campus Programs. The show, held annually in February, is part of a series of campus events in honor of Black History Month. The final UIC Blues Cabaret took place in February 2015. —Molly Brenza
Maxwell Street
1960s
Dancing Flames National Champions

While this year’s Dancing Flames team won the 2007 Universal Dance Association’s National College Dance Team Championships, the 1996 team was the first to earn a UDA national title for UIC. Here, team members (from left to right) Kym Adams, Carla Pamplona ’97 LAS, Lisa Anderson, (back, from left to right) Carnia Melo, an unidentified member and Nicole Harris perform at the UIC Pavilion during a basketball game.
Besides being the preeminent Andrew Jackson biographer (see pg. 46), Dr. Robert V. Remini was consumed with chronicling UIC’s unique story. He established the UIC Office of the Historian in 1996 and began the process of collecting the University’s history through documents, photographs and interviews with alumni, staff, faculty and administrators. Much of what has appeared in these columns is the result of his decades-long effort.

When I joined the Office, I was immediately thrust into researching campus architecture. I also worked on an oral history of the University. The stories people shared of their commitment to UIC were inspiring.

On a personal note, I will forever remember talks Remini and I shared on the U.S. Navy and American history. He was not only a national treasure, but a UIC treasure and one who cast a giant shadow in my life. He was a kindred spirit in advancing knowledge of our campus, and I thank him for the doors he opened in my life. Fair winds and following seas, Dr. Remini!

—Jason Waak

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President David Henry (right) and the administrative team behind University expansion in the 1960s

Liberal Arts and Sciences Department Chairs, 1965
What made Navy Pier a viable location for a temporary U of I campus?

From 1941-45, Navy Pier served as the site of the Navy Technical Training School, which trained more than 60,000 seamen, radarsmen, and aviation and motor machinists.

To handle the influx of students on the GI Bill, the University began searching for a suitable location for a branch campus in Chicago. Mayor Ed Kelly aided the process by interceding with the Navy for use of the Pier, which had undergone $3 million in amenity upgrades.

When the Chicago Undergraduate Division opened during Fall 1946, the campus was headed by Executive Dean Charles Caveny, who previously had served as NTS executive officer. Other former naval officers provided continuity during the transition, including Warren Brown, dean of men.

Meanwhile, the 4,000 students who attended the campus’ initial term found many of the classroom spaces painted haze gray, a reminder to many of their military service. Perhaps a fitting motto for Navy Pier would be, “From Victory at Sea to UIC!” —Jason Marcus Waak

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Chicago Undergraduate Division
Navy Pier, 1946-1965
Engineering Classroom, Navy Pier

“Defense Plant Corporation”
war surplus equipment
When reading the book *Battle for Hue: Tet 1968*, I came across a Lieutenant Commander Robert C. Hamilton. Is this the same person who served as team physician for UIC Athletics?

It is indeed the same individual. After completing his residency, Robert C. Hamilton ’55 COM, MD ’57, ’62 RES became the UIC Athletics team physician.

At age 34, Hamilton was drafted into the Navy in 1967. He was given command of Bravo Company, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Division in January 1968. At the onset of the Tet Offensive, Hamilton headed north from his base at Phu Bai with several corpsmen to provide medical assistance to Marines fighting in Hue City.

Upon entering the Navy, Hamilton agreed to serve his first year of duty in Vietnam so he could complete his last two years at Naval Station Great Lakes and continue as UIC team physician, which he did until 1974.

A leader in the field of sports medicine, Hamilton served as past president of both the Chicago and Illinois State Medical Societies. He was inducted into the UIC Athletics Hall of Fame in 1990. In recognition of his heroic service at the Battle for Hue, Hamilton received a bronze star. He remained in the Naval Reserve, retiring with the rank of captain in 1982. —Jason Waak

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I came across an Ensign Oscar Miller in a naval history book. Is he our former dean of students?

It is indeed the same individual. After participating in the Normandy invasion, Oscar Miller was senior officer present, affixing, commanding a landing craft ferrying elements of Patton’s Third Army across the Rhine River into Germany. On the night of March 28, 1945, after several failed attempts, he made the bold decision to try again, resulting in catching the enemy temporarily unprepared and securing a foothold in Nazi Germany. For this action, he received the Bronze Star.

At war’s end, Miller taught economics at Wright Junior College before joining the Navy Pier campus faculty. He served as professor of economics (1948-2000) and dean of students (1965-83). He also held the associate vice-chancellor for student affairs position.

His courage under fire served him well in his role as dean, given the fact that he presided over one of the most tumultuous periods in U.S. higher education. Often remembered for asking his students to memorize the definition of economics, many would recite it back to him years later upon seeing him.

—Jason Marcus Waak

Contributing Editor Jason Marcus Waak ’96 LAS, mec ’96, previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, Navy Pier Campus and student government.
When was the College of Nursing established?

Formal nursing education at the University of Illinois dates back to 1885, when the College of Physicians and Surgeons established the College Hospital to, in part, perfect the “details of nursing and after-treatment.” In 1951, the School of Nursing was created as an autonomous unit, and a four-year degree program was approved two years later. As a result, UIC became the first public institution in Illinois to offer a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. In 1959, the School became the College of Nursing and began offering graduate degrees in 1962.

In the 1970s, the College expanded to regional sites in Rockford, Peoria and Urbana, and established the first Ph.D. program for nurses in Illinois. Today, at age 85, the College has become one of the nation’s premier nursing programs.

—Jason Marcus Waak

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UIC Expansion

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

UIC Master Plan
Academic & Residential Complex - 2019
Virginia M. Ohlson cast a giant shadow on the profession of nursing and UIC. Growing up in Chicago, she received her initial nursing education from Swedish Covenant Hospital. Ohlson was recruited to UIC in 1963 because of her extensive experience in the field of public health, which included serving eight years in post-World War II Japan.

At UIC, Ohlson developed and later headed the Department of Public Health Nursing (1970-80) and served as acting dean (1971-72). Her efforts led to making UIC the first World Health Organization Collaborating Center in 1986. Her extensive international ties helped Ohlson find the College’s Office for International Studies (currently known as the Office of Global Health Leadership).

Ohlson retired from her UIC duties in 1992 but continued consulting at universities worldwide. She received numerous awards, including an order of knighthood from the Emperor of Japan and honorary membership in the Japanese Nursing Association. She passed away in 2010.

—Jason Waak
De-Consolidation: Leaving U of I

Has there ever been an attempt to de-consolidate UIC?

While there have been attempts to expand UIC—including a proposed merger with Michael Reese Hospital—there has never been an effort to de-consolidate the campus during its nearly 30-year history.

During the early 1970s, there was an attempt by James Holdeman, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, to sever UICC from the University of Illinois system. With self-serving motives, he convened a group, Committee N, to do just that. This attack against UICC had an interesting effect on the normally stormy relations between Chicago Circle faculty and University of Illinois President David Henry. While seen by many as an obstructionist to the expansion of UICC academic and graduate programs, Henry united with faculty to block this move.

Holdeman was a highly controversial figure who had served as de facto UICC vice chancellor for administration before being selected by newly elected Governor Richard B. Ogilvie to head the IBHE. Some believe that the UICC reorganization was Holdeman’s attempt to become a chancellor or president of a major university.

—Jason Marcus Waik

Contributing Editor Jason Marcus Waik ’96 L.L.S., now ’98 L.L.S., previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, Navy Pier Campus and student government.

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Did the UI Medical Center have athletics teams?

Indeed it did, acquiring a football team upon the University of Illinois’ 1897 affiliation with the Chicago-based College of Physicians & Surgeons. However, the U of I Board of Trustees didn’t warm up to the P&F franchise due to the recent founding of a football team on the Urbana campus. Two proved to be too many. As a result, the Chicago team remained self-funded.

P&F also launched a basketball franchise at the turn of the 20th century. Upon incorporating with U of I in 1913, athletics within the Chicago Professional Colleges, comprising medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, assumed the name Chicago Illini. Although classes sometimes prevented players from participating, the basketball team logged at least one outstanding season, with a record of 12-3 in 1961-62. The team accomplished this despite not having a gym to practice in. By the 1980s, UIMC athletics were relegated to intramural activities.

—Jason Marcus Walk

Contributing Editor Jason Marcus Walk, ’96 LAS, and ’98, previously served as an assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, Navy Pier Campus and student government.

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TRIVIA QUESTION

What two colors would you use for a college of medicine athletic program, chocolate brown and...?
Was there ever an offer to build a new home stadium for the Chicago Bears on the UIC campus?

There was indeed an attempt to build a football stadium for the Chicago Bears on what is now UIC’s South Campus. The City of Chicago and State of Illinois had preliminary talks with the University during the mid-1980s regarding the matter.

During the 1970s, UIC began purchasing parcels of land south of Roosevelt Road. By the early 1990s, it owned a substantial amount of land in the area. Three possibilities for redevelopment emerged: a new Bears’ stadium, an academic complex, and a host location for the World’s Fair. During this period, rumors swirled as many wondered if UIC would become the new home of the Chicago Bears. Part of the excitement was fueled by the fact that football had been disbanded at Circle Campus in 1973 and a new stadium held the promise of resurrecting the football program.

Given the constraints of being a land-locked institution, the University opted to expand the campus’ academic footprint. As a result, UIC significantly expanded its residential housing and constructed the UIC Forum.

—Jason Marcus Waak

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Hal Nemoto, standout linebacker, football head coach, and demise of UICC Football
Student Diversity

UIUC 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%.
First Drama in Circle Forum:
Antigone, October 1965

Homecoming Queens 1967 and 1968
Dinesh Gupta '93, Attomoe, and Tasha Webber '93 celebrate their crowning as king and queen of the 1992 Homecoming dance. Webber, then a senior majoring in English and communications, was a member of the UIC cheerleader squad. Gupta, a junior majoring in pre-med biology, received strong support for kingship from his fellow members of the Indian Student Association and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.
Established in 1987, the first Pan-Asian American student group was the Organization of Asian Students. In 1991, this group split into two, which resulted in the founding of the Asian American Collegiate Organization, a group that engaged students in political awareness and cultural identity. After UIC’s first Asian American Conference was held in 1983, the two groups merged in 1994, forming the Asian American Students in Alliance.

Thanks to AASIA efforts to garner faculty support, the University established a Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in 1999. The evolution of awareness continued in March 2000, with formation of the Coalition for Asian American Studies. This group, along with the Chancellor’s Committee, lobbied for establishment of the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center in 2005.

Today, 15 Asian American student groups are registered at UIC and, during the fall of 2010, a minor was established in Asian American studies.

—Jason Marcus Waak

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Origins of Greek Life

When the University of Illinois’ Chicago Circle Campus opened in 1955, there were no provisions for fraternities or sororities. Although the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign had the nation’s largest Greek system, Chicago planners envisioned UIC as a commuter school. In addition, a local ordinance limited the number of unrelated women that could live in a single residency. As a result, UIC refused to charter any campus residential sororities or fraternities.

Under these constraints emerged Pi Alpha Tau, one of the country’s first co-ed “fraternities” and an active force at UIC in the 1960s. Rather than offering a residence, the fraternity sponsored events to help build a sense of community on campus.

Since the 1960s, Greek life at UIC has grown significantly. In the mid-1990s, the sorority Gamma Gamma Gamma affiliated itself with a national organization and became Alpha Sigma Tau. In 1998, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi became the first Asian American sorority in the State of Illinois. Today, 28 Greek organizations are registered at UIC.

—Jasen Marcus Waak

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Neighborhood Diversity & Terrell vs. Temmer
University Administrator James Holderman and the West Side Organization

Chancellor Norman Parker
What did UICC Chancellor Warren Cheston hope to gain by reducing the campus' admissions standards?

The tenure of Warren Cheston, who served as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle from 1971-75, was tumultuous and scandal-ridden. His most controversial decision was reducing admission standards.

The impetus for Cheston's initiative was his attempt to satisfy the campus' "urban mission." (UICC has often been seen as having a unique responsibility to the City of Chicago.) Real or perceived, this mission was never definitively defined by any segment of the University administration, but instead was used as a political tool to limit the campus' growth.

This debate came to a climax during a faculty retreat in which Cheston invited a member of City College of New York to speak. CCNY had adopted open admissions in 1970. At the end of the presentation, Richard Johnson, then-head of the Political Science Department, boldly declared, "horse----t, horse----t, horse----t!" At that point, the faculty senate pushed back against open admissions, and leveraged Cheston out.

—Jason Marcus Waak

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Circle in the 1970s or, why we don’t call it Circle anymore!

"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
Established in 1973, the Urban Health Program recruits minorities to enroll in UIC’s health science colleges. It also collaborates with hospitals in predominantly minority neighborhoods to develop health care programs.

UHP has its roots in the outcry of Chicago’s African American community to increase the number of minority doctors, which led the Illinois General Assembly to pass a resolution for a feasibility study to establish a medical school at Chicago State University. The study concluded the cost was too high; money and support were then allocated to establishing UHP at UIC.

A true champion of UHP was Earl Neal ’49, who served as president of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. An African American, he counted UHP as one of his biggest accomplishments. “To see [UIC’s] enrollment of [African American] students in the [field] of medicine exceed that of every university in the country with the exception of Howard and Meharry, which are predominantly black institutions, is a great thing,” he said.

—Jason Waah

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What role did James Overlock play at UIC?

In May 1962, James Overlock was appointed director of the student union (Chicago Circle Center) to be built at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle. He would go on to serve as the founding director of Campus Auxiliary Services and as UIC associate chancellor.

On the prospect of building a campus entirely from scratch, Overlock enthusiastically responded, "It was one of the most interesting and challenging educational opportunities in the United States."

His fingerprints can be found on more than just Circle Center. In 1968, Overlock conducted a study on student housing, laying the groundwork for its future construction.

Despite his gruff appearance, Overlock is remembered as someone who always remained responsive to the constantly changing needs of the student body. In establishing the Circle Center Board, he and his staff were ahead of their time in providing participatory government, whereby students had a voice in programming and policy.

He retired in 1986 after 24 years of service.
—Jasen Marcus Waak

Contributing Editor Jasen Marcus Waak ’96 LAS, MEd ’96, previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as the Asian American movement, Navy Pier Campus and student government.
What are the origins of Chicago Circle's residence halls?

In the 1960s, the joke was that Chicago Circle was the place where professors raced students to commuter trains and buses, creating their own mid-afternoon rush hour. Less amusing was the fact that no housing resulted in no campus life at Circle, putting it at a disadvantage against more well-rounded, round-the-clock competitors. Change came with the merger of the UI Medical Center and Chicago Circle in 1982. Paul Chung, then dean of UIC's College of Engineering, declared, "We cannot go any further as a university without housing on this campus."

In early 1984, UIC's Board of Trustees convened a committee to investigate the issue. It found a substantial need for campus housing. In fact, the issue was "make or break" for many area high school counselors, who encouraged students to pursue their college studies elsewhere. A desire to cast its net across greater geographic and economic boundaries eventually prompted UIC to undertake construction of Chicago Circle's first residence halls, which were completed in 1988.

—Jason Waak

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South Campus Development

Thomas Beckham Residence Hall, Halsted Street

James J. Stukel Towers Residence Hall and UIC Forum, from Dan Ryan Expressway
Was the Student Services Building once a shopping mall?

Located at the corner of Harrison Street and Racine Avenue, the Student Services Building opened in 1974 as the Circle Court Shopping Center. Over the years, it housed such merchants as a bank, jewelry store, grocery store and Burger King. Among its first tenants was a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream shop owned by Tom Lee ’71 MBA.

During the savings and loan scandal of the late 1980s, the structure fell into federal receivership. Being a land-locked campus, this presented a unique opportunity to shore up the East Campus’s Northwest boundary. Consequently, then UIC administrator Stanton Delaney LAS ’69, MBA ’84, PhD ’87 LAS moved to purchase the building at a significant discount. The campus decided to centralize all student services in the building. For example, Admissions and Records had been housed in Alumni Hall (now CUPPA Hall). The renovated building opened in 1995 and today serves as a national model for student services.

—Jason Waak

Contributing Editor: Jason Marcus Waak ’96 LAS, MFA ’08, previously served as assistant director for the Office of the UIC Historian. He has written and presented on such UIC-related topics as Native American movement, Harry Piel Campus and student government.
Thank You!
Thank you!

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