

## **Student Initiatives funded by the Dean's Fund for Student Life**

### **Fall 2013 – Spring 2014**

#### **Uncommon Fund**

---

The Uncommon Fund provides resources for students to support unique and creative student initiatives on campus, ranging from one-day events to large-scale projects. The Uncommon Fund is entirely student-run. The goal of the fund is to encourage students to take action on campus and help them realize their passions outside of registered student organizations. This year the Fund supported projects include UChicago Illuminoggin, a glowing, interactive brain sculpture, Suit Up!, which provides suits to students to wear to job interviews, and UChicago Women's Gala.

#### **UCSC's Participation in 2014 Conference on May 12-13, 2014**

---

The 2014 IMPACT National Conference on Community Service, Service Learning, and Civic Engagement will take place February 27 through March 2 at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Since the first conference nearly thirty years ago at Harvard University, the conference has grown into a national convening on best practices and innovative ideas in community service and service learning for over 600 civic-minded college students and the professional staff who advise them. UCSC proposed to bring a group of twelve students and four professional staff to the 2014 conference to extend the reach and to raise the profile of the University of Chicago's civic engagement efforts.

#### **Ian Woo Cumings Memorial 5K**

---

The Annual Ian Woo Cumings Memorial 5K is the capstone event for DKE Week, Delta Kappa Epsilon's week-long fundraising effort for the Ian Woo Cumings Memorial Scholarship and commemoration of the fraternity's three pillars: being a gentleman, a scholar, and a jolly-good fellow. Revenues from the event go towards bringing the scholarship to its full endowment.

#### **MODA 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion Show**

---

The Annual MODA Spring Fashion Show provides a unique opportunity for student artists to express themselves via fashion, modeling, and a hair and makeup design. More than a fashion show, this event has become an experience for attendees, featuring hors d'oeuvres, live performances and a DJ. Having grown tremendously since its inception in 2010, this event is anticipated by a wide audience, especially since it was moved off campus to Union Station's Great Hall to accommodate more than 1,100 spectators. The MODA Fashion Show has been featured in many major media outlets including the Chicago Tribune, Refinery 29, and Kiss FM. The event also serves as the launch party for the spring issue of MODA's magazine, which features writing, styling, modeling and designs by UChicago students.

## **TED x UChicago Annual Conference**

---

Created in the spirit of TED's mission, "ideas worth spreading," the TEDx program is designed to give communities and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level. The fourth annual TEDxUChicago conference was held on Saturday, April 19, drawing more than 800 people to Mandel Hall. The conference was centered on the theme "Make No Little Plans," inspired by the famous words of Daniel Burnham, the chief architect of the 1893 World's Fair.



The student-run event brought in 11 speakers, including former UFC middleweight champion Rich Franklin, Microsoft General Manager Khadija Mustafa, 2012 Obama campaign National Field Director Jeremy Bird, and bestselling author and Director of Marketing at American Apparel, Ryan Holiday. Funding by the Dean's Fund for Student Life allowed TEDx UChicago to be recorded and streamed, sharing the UChicago tradition of great dialogue with the world.

## **Sunbox Project**

---

SUNBOX is a proposed interactive art installation on The University of Chicago Main Quadrangle. SUNBOX is an open-roofed walled eight by eight foot structure that has internally illuminated walls creating a life-sized light box effect on the inside. The conceptual basis of SUNBOX is rooted in James Turrell's light installations, which use light and illumination as powerful emotive tools. The goal of SUNBOX is to be a transformative space that allows for a short interruption of the campus routine for communing and community-building. A team of seven Student Shop Assistants and DoVA Concentrators have volunteered time to help execute the build. Logan Shop Manager Hannah Givler will serve as supervisor, helping to ensure the weatherability and structural integrity of SUNBOX, as well as to organize and ensure the diverse skill sets of the numerous volunteers. The finished SUNBOX will be promoted by word of mouth and a series of opening-week events, they envision SUNBOX as a surprise to be engaged with. Funding by the Dean's Fund for Student Life supported the construction costs.

## **Bike Constructing Project**

---

This past March, Kevin O'Connor, a second year student in Physics, and Jake Kaufman, a second year student in Fundamentals: Issues/Texts, proposed to build their own bikes. This unique project included designing and welding the frame, putting spoke into the wheels and packing gears themselves. By having bikes, commodities generally mass produced, sprout up slowly around members of the fabrication community on campus they hope to instill a deeper faith in student's abilities to manufacture for themselves. Through their work they will hold workshops on campus teaching others how to best maintain their bikes in a city environment, and how to modify the bike for either aesthetic or practical purposes.

## **CYPG's 5K Fundraiser**

---

The Chicago Youth Philanthropy Group was created two years ago by three undergraduates. It aims at teaching philanthropy in high schools by transforming classrooms into philanthropic foundations, starting this year with King College Prep (44th and Drexel), where the curriculum is part of the senior seminar class. This team organized their main fundraiser of the year – CYPG's 5K Fundraiser that took place on April 27<sup>th</sup> on the campus of the University of Chicago.

## **Mock Trial Team**

---

The University of Chicago's Mock Trial Team is one of the strongest in the nation. In competition, they combine their academic interest in law with improvisation, acting, and debate, often seeing incredible success for their efforts. Since their program's inception, they have earned seven national awards, eleven All-American awards, and countless regional championships on behalf of the University. Presently, hardly any of the major tournaments take place in the Midwest. The team suggested solving this in January of 2015 by hosting their very own tournament: "The Great Chicago Fire Invitational". This is an opportunity to invite students from other schools to come compete in our city and visit the campus. It will allow them as a program to grow by competing against other talented schools while showing off their University to students both nationwide and local. Funding from the Dean's Fund for Student Life covered the start-up fees for the tournament. This grant would ensure the groundwork is laid to keep the UChicago name on the map in academic competition for years to come, and foster a spirit of cooperation between the University of Chicago and other elite academic institutions. This past January, our campus hosted roughly 250 undergraduates from peer institutions, and over 100 judges from the legal field.

## **Eckhart Consulting Annual Case Competition**

---

Eckhart Consulting, UChicago's pro-bono strategy and management consulting group, hosts a case competition each spring with Northwestern University's Consulting Advising Student Enterprises and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The competition allows students to implement their classroom-learned problem solving skills in a real-world setting. This past spring, teams participating in the competition, comprised of undergraduate students of all majors, worked on a two-week long consulting project for Best Western Hotels. Funding from the Dean's Fund for Student Life supported organizational costs.

## **Annual Kent Lecture**

---



The Kent Lecture is held annually in honor of the late Dr. George E. Kent, one of the earliest tenured African-American professors at the University of Chicago and its first African-American professor of English. The lecture was established by the Organization of Black Students to serve as a platform for community exposure to African-American luminaries—an end Dr. Kent championed throughout his 12-year tenure at the University of Chicago. Since the lecture's inception in 1984, speakers such as Dick Gregory, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Cornel West, Michael Eric Dyson, Henry Louis Gates Jr., and Michelle Alexander have shared their views on politics, social justice and race relations with our audiences.

Funding by the Dean's Fund for Student Life was allocated toward bringing in this year's Kent Lecture featuring political strategist, professor, author, and columnist, Donna Brazile.

## **SUNY Oneonta 19th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference**

---

The SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference is one of the nation's most prestigious in the country. John Colin Bradley, a fourth year student in Philosophy, was invited to present and discuss his paper at the Conference. The philosophy paper titled "The Cartesian Predicament and Non-Psychologism", discusses a difficult contemporary problem in thought about the history and philosophy of logic, and whether that problem is rightly traced back to the writings of Descartes. After the Conference, John plans to share his experience with the Philosophy Club and help the younger students to prepare for their own post-graduation philosophical careers.



## Chicago Society's "China and the World" Conference

“China and the World: Business, Politics, and International Relations in the Age of an Asian Superpower Conference” is a Chicago Society event supported by the International House. This conference is targeted at a broad audience and involved multiple groups and organizations on campus. The University of Chicago’s China and the World conference focused on major themes in economics, foreign policy, and Chinese society. The conference comprised three panels on (i) financial and economic transformation in China, (ii) international relations in the age of an Asian superpower, and (iii) social change and Chinese politics, inviting featured speakers: John Mearsheimer, Robert Kapp, Dali Yang, David Shinn, Doug Guthrie, Phillip Saunders, Vikram Nehru, Stan Rosen.

## Do Good Data 2014 Conference

Do Good Data Conference is held every year attracting 350 attendees from 25 states and 2 countries come to Chicago to talk about how data is changing the social sector and its work. With keynotes from the like of Amy Costello of Tiny Spark, John List of the Science of Philanthropy Initiative, and Jason Saul from Mission Measurement. Yujia Pan, a second year student in Mathematics, is planning to use this experience from the Conference by giving talks and presentations to existing organizations on campus (for example, the Student Alumni Committee) focusing on the ways that data and data-analytic tools can help increase the effectiveness of their philanthropic efforts. She is also interested in sharing her newfound knowledge with campus organizations that work with local community organizations, so that they may too be informed about analytic tools at their disposal as well as strategies to maximize the effectiveness of their partnerships.

## Research work in France

Funding supported Alison Newman’s thesis research of a manuscript of Cicero's De inventione, which is located in the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Alison Newman, a fourth year student in Classical Studies, has been working with black-and-white microfilm scan but due to difficulties to determine the edits, the week-long trip was organized to see the manuscript in person and study it. This opportunity allowed the student to do research and craft a thesis.

## Computational Physiology Workshop in Pittsburgh

The workshop “Computational Methods for Spatially Realistic Microphysiological Simulations 2014” was organized by the National Center for Multiscale Modeling of Biological Systems (MMBioS) and covered theory and practice for the design and simulation of models focused on diffusion-reaction systems such as neurotransmission, signaling cascades, and other forms of biochemical networks. During the workshop, Mladen Rasic, a fourth year student in Chemistry, learned how to use the tools developed by MMBioS to create, run, and analyze models of cellular microphysiology and apply them to his own research questions. The workshop will further help prepare him for the future by adding valuable hands-on software training which he could then use to develop his current research at the Institute for Molecular Engineering. He will offer a presentation of the materials learned at the workshop, and give others a chance to learn about this new field.

## **Voices from North Korea**

Amnesty International at UChicago is a new RSO at UChicago, has just gained official RSO status in March. The goal is to provide an avenue for students at UChicago to engage in human rights discussion, volunteer opportunities and activism. Following a Human Rights Poetry event with Catcher in the Rhyme in the fall, a screening of Free China with the Falun Gong Club, and their own Hunger Banquet in the winter, Amnesty presented a large-scale event in cooperation with PanAsia and ENoK as part of International House's Global Voices Program. The Dean's Fund went towards inviting two speakers: Eunju Kim, North Korean refugee and student, author of the book, *La Coree Du Nord: 9 Ans Pour fuir L'Enfer*, a memoir about her experience and Jinhye Jo, North Korean refugee and university graduate. Jinhye is the president of North Korean Refugees in USA and a frequent speaker at Congressional hearings and conferences.



## **3-Day Start-up**

3-Day Startup is a national startup kick-starter conference for university students. With over 55 programs globally, 3DS has developed an effective model based on partnership and mentorship to facilitate innovation among young people. Typically, the program is organized by students who wish to reinforce the entrepreneurial environment on their college campuses, which ensures that each program is uniquely geared to the particular campus environment. 25 people forms 5 groups of 5 people each. The small groups brainstorm and pick their favorite ideas. Then each group pitches their top idea to the seven other groups. At the end, all participants vote on the top one, two, or three ideas. The winners received \$2000 seed money, free cloud hosting from Rackspace for one year (up to \$1000/month of usage), free access to Microsoft BizSpark and a legal services package from DLA.

## **Spring Break Internship at the Creative Artists Agency**

This past spring, Zachary Kessler, a second year student in Public Policy Studies, traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the Spring Break Internship Program, a one-week intensive training program, at Creative Artists Agency. Creative Artists Agency (CAA) is a talent and sports agency, headquartered in Los Angeles. CCA offered Adam experience each department and leave with a working knowledge of each of them. However, Zachary was excited the most about is to learn the inner workings of their Philanthropic Foundation. The CAA Foundation is a private foundation within the meaning of 509(A) under section 501(c)3 of the IRS. Entirely underwritten by CAA, the Foundation taps into the agency's cultural resources to create positive social change by encouraging volunteerism, facilitating strategic partnerships, granting financial contributions, and providing in-kind donations.

## **UChicago Women's Gala**

The UChicago community held the first UChicago Women's Gala, on Friday, May 30th, 2014 in the Cloister Club of Ida Noyes. This event was a celebration of women's leadership at UChicago both during and beyond their years at the University. The gala provided an opportunity to unite alumni, staff, and students alike and highlight the many achievements and ongoing challenges faced by female professionals. Through this event, the organizers offered a chance for the UChicago community to come together for an evening of inspiration and celebration.



## **Dirt Red Brass Band's trip to New Orleans**



The Dirt Red Brass Band is UChicago's only New Orleans-style student jazz band, formed on campus fall quarter of last year. With 22 members including 5 inducted this year through auditions, Dirt Red has been performing on campus multiple times each quarter since winter 2013, with well-attended concerts in Hutchinson Commons, Logan, and other venues. Dirt Red has played at on-campus events for many RSOs including the Maroon's Grey City launch party, COUP's Mardi Gras party, AKPsi's Game Night, and Summer Breeze. The band organized their trip to New Orleans not only to listen the genuine New Orleans' style to be able to produce more authentic sounds themselves, but also play as much as possible in diverse settings.

## **Research on Western Hognose snakes**

Parker Tikson, a second year student in Geophysical Sciences, is intending to conduct a research on the wildly misunderstood Western Hognose Snake (*Heterodon Nasicus*), an Illinois endangered species. Along with his UC Lab School biology instructor, Daniel Jones, Parker will study many characteristics from behavioral and biological perspectives and provide an accurate and thorough evaluation so that this species can be better understood by everyone from the IDNR (Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources) to common, ill-informed citizens. His objective is to create an in-house procedure for successful reproduction that can be shared with zoos and independent biologists with similar conservation efforts in mind.

## **Research and interviews in Germany and Vienna**

In order to complete the research necessary to complete his thesis, Jesse Handler, a third year student in Geographical Studies, is planning on spending ten weeks of summer 2014 in Hamburg, Germany and Vienna, Austria. Jesse will conduct archival research, ethnographic observations and interviews with city planners, architects, and scholars involved in the planning process of reconstruction of conflict cities of the WWII. Additionally, Jesse will attend the public sessions of "Right to the City: Appropriations of Public Spaces in Transition," a graduate level conference in Vienna from July 1st to 7th. The conference focuses on the transformation of urban public space and is co-hosted by the University of Vienna and the City University New York.

## **Wellington Underground Film Festival**

The Wellington Underground Film Festival (WUFF), an event celebrating the best in experimental filmmaking from New Zealand and abroad. The three-day festival will showcase a diverse collection of 75, mostly single-author, films that range from half-minute colorful experimental pieces to a half-hour silent film shot with Super-8. This year the WUFF presented a program representing 58 artists from 17 countries including Renata's film called "Glossolilia". The radical feminist film which Renata, a second year student in Art History, created explores the male gaze on the female body and the reconstruction of the feminine form by cinema – a process that is maddening and humiliating for the woman claimed by the audience and director. Renata had an opportunity not only to attend the festival and present the film, but also to speak on behalf of her film and receive direct critique.

## **Research with the Dark Energy survey in Spain**

---

This summer Amanda Pagul, a third year student in Physics, will travel to Spain to work with a group at CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas, Medioambientales y Tecnologicas), led by Professor Eusebio Sanchez. Amanda will be working on research that involves operating with and understanding two-point correlation functions of galaxies in 2D and 3D via theory and data analysis. Furthermore, for three weeks, along with her project, the student will participate in a workshop on numerical simulations of the Universe to answer questions about its structure and dynamical evolution.

## **UChicago Sailing Team in Les Sables-d'Olonne France**

---



Organized by 50 students from EDHEC Business School, the EDHEC Cup competition is the largest European sporting event for students, and the largest student sailing race. This year, the leading student sporting event in Europe hosted more than 3,000 participants from 160 schools and universities from 22 countries. This year, UChicago Sailing Team was invited to participate and field a team of 6 sailors to compete in the J80 yacht class.

## **Women in Finance Forum by Piper Jaffray**

---

This past January, Fangning Gu, a third year student in Economics, was invited to join a conference in New York organized by the investment bank Piper Jaffray. Piper Jaffray is a full-service investment bank and asset management firm focused on mergers and acquisitions, financial restructuring, public offerings, public finance, institutional brokerage, investment management and securities research. A select group of top-performing female undergraduate and graduate students were invited to acknowledge and discuss the impact of women in various economic fields ranging from individual ventures to public finance. Designed for women interested in career opportunities in the financial services industry, the forum highlighted different career options and provided networking opportunities with professionals at Piper Jaffray.

## **Creation of a cDNA library from samples of Washington Park**

---

With help from the Dean's Fund, Andrea Rummer, a fourth year student in Geophysical Sciences, wants to create a cDNA library for the freshwater bryozoan *Plumatella casmiana*, using tissue samples she collected herself in Washington Park. This library will be the first of its kind for a freshwater species. The Ho Lab, which has expertise in constructing cDNA libraries for zebrafish, will host and advise her on this project. A cDNA library for this freshwater species would be part of a larger project at the Field Museum of Natural History with Dr. Scott Lidgard, and would complement a cDNA library already created for a marine bryozoan. The goal of the study is to find out where developmentally-important metazoan genes (like Hox) are expressed in bryozoans to gain a deeper understanding of bryozoan and metazoan development, and unique metazoan lifestyles.

## **USGBC LEED Green Associate accreditation**

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and its community are changing the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated. The LEED Green Associate credential and the various LEED AP credentials offer professionals a designation designed to help them stand out in the building industry. William Calvin, a fourth year student in Public Policy Studies, is pursuing a career in green building and the policies surrounding it, and this accreditation would be a valuable asset to have as a soon-to-be graduate of the University of Chicago and as a young professional in seeking and acquiring jobs related to sustainable design, green building, and green building policy.

## **Sundance Film Festival**

This past January, Daniel Frankel, a third year student in Political Science, attended the Sundance Film Festival from January 16th-20th, 2014 in Park City, Utah in order to learn about the filming business environment. Daniel has been a member of a Doc Films, an organization staffed completely by student volunteers on campus at Max Palevsky Cinema. Daniel is planning to host a series of films that were exhibited at the Festival and hopefully bring some talent back to Chicago for Q&As and introductions of their films.

## **Field Trip to the American Southwest**

This summer Samantha Chiang, a fourth year student in Environmental Science, will attend a two-week field trip to the American southwest with Professor Eric Larsen of the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division. The trip is a culmination of three months of preparatory work for a research project to be conducted on the trip. Samantha will be conducting a research project that will be focused primarily on the effects of artificial watering on saguaro cacti. To bring this experience back to campus, the student is planning to hold an event with the Outdoor Adventure Club in the fall in which she would encourage current students to join the club and make use of the available resources to engage more with the environment and nature.

## **Photo documentary project**

There are over 800,000 people trafficked across borders every year. In the United States alone over 300,000 children are in the sex trade, starting at an average age of 12. Seattle ranks 3rd in the United States for sex trafficking; over 33% of underage sex worker cases take place in Seattle. Luke Sironski-White, a first year student, is planning to conduct a trip to the Seattle Region in order to photograph and speak with victims of human trafficking. This will be accomplished by partnering with prominent organizations in the Seattle area such as WARN (Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network), SAS (Seattle Against Slavery), and the Genesis Project. After completing this project, Luke would like to show the work on campus in an exhibition during the fall quarter in order to expose students to the issue.

## **Internship at the Deli Magazine**

The Deli Magazine consists of an online publication, customized by eleven regions, and several, different annual print editions. Each hub focuses on a major city, including New York as the primary hub, followed by Chicago, Austin, and San Francisco. Updated daily, the magazine follows emerging artists and their recent concerts and album releases. Funding from the Dean's Fund for Student Life allows Sammie Spector, a first year student in English Language and Literature, to maintain her internship at the Deli Magazine and devote significant time to furthering her already successful work at The Deli Magazine.



## **iGEM competition**

---

GeneHackers, established in 2012, is a scientific research RSO that aims to inspire interest in synthetic biology among undergraduate students. GeneHackers plans to participate in the 2014 International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) competition, which showcases student-run research in the emerging field of synthetic biology. As the premier undergraduate biotechnology and synthetic biology competition, iGEM is today regarded as one of the most important and prestigious scientific competition.



Students from across the globe develop standardized and interchangeable biological parts that are open and free for use. In addition to contributing to scientific advancement, the objective of GeneHackers is to increase the presence of the University of Chicago in iGEM and help the university play a leading role in the burgeoning field of synthetic biology. Funding supported the program attendance fee.

## **Internship with Dream on Education**

---

This summer Maayan Olshan, a third year student in Philosophy, is staying in Chicago for an internship with Dream On Education, a growing non-profit organization that seeks to tutor and support underprivileged children in the Chicago land area. With this organization she will be working as a film-photographer, editor, and graphic designer to help create promotional videos and advertisements as a way to both publicize and document the progress and growth of the organization. Maayan is currently the president of, Maroon TV. She is planning to bring her experience and new found knowledge of professional filming/documenting back to share with the Maroon TV.

## **Internship at the Guggenheim Museum in New York**

---

Alexa Daugherty, a second year student in Cinema/Media Studies, will be working as an intern at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York this summer. Internship in the Guggenheim's Adult Education and Access Programs department will be pivotal to her academic studies in arts related media as well as how Alexa involve herself with RSOs and institutions on campus. An intensely formative professional experience, the internship will serve as a catalyst for further conversations regarding art, media, and technology on campus.

## **ACM Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining**

---

ACM is widely recognized as the premier membership organization for computing professionals, delivering resources that advance computing as a science and a profession; enable professional development; and promote policies and research that benefit society. Nathaniel Sauder, a second year student in Mathematics, and Yo Joong Choe, a third year student in Mathematics, are planning to attend the ACM Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD) which is an annual conference where both researchers and practitioners in data science meet to reflect on past research and to launch new initiatives. The students hope to bring the knowledge they gain at KDD in order to launch a new interdisciplinary machine learning RSO next year.