**Ampersand Blog Contest Spring 2015**

Do you have something to share with the Honors College community? Write a blog entry for the Ampersand and you could win a **$100 gift card to the UIC Bookstore!**

The Ampersandis looking to diversify its online content and will be holding a blog contest this semester! We are looking for students to write about their experiences as UIC Honors College students and to share their ideas through the Honors College student blog. To get you started, we have three prompts for you to choose from:

1.   Describe your most meaningful Honors Activity experience.

2.   Who is a person at UIC that has influenced you or inspired your journey through Honors at UIC?

3.   Describe your ideal UIC. How do or can the administrators, faculty, and other students of the Honors College support that vision?  (Some examples to consider for ideas: What do you believe is needed to make UIC feel even more like “home” in new ways? What makes UIC special and distinct from other universities and how do we in the Honors College capitalize on this? What were your initial reasons for choosing UIC and UIC Honors? In what ways have your experiences met those expectations?)

Blogs that cover any of these topics will be considered for the contest. Submissions will be evaluated based on **content** and **quality** **of** **writing**. Blog entries vary in length, but generally are expected to be 400-600 words in length. Blogs do not necessarily have to be formal or editorial—readers should not only be able to gather information, but also be able to recognize your personality in your writing. Take advantage of the opportunity to express your voice in writing and be creative with the blog format!

However, still proofread AND spellcheck to avoid simple grammatical errors. Please be sure to fact-check your writing, especially if specific events or people are mentioned. Keep in mind that the goal of the Honors College student blog is to encourage students to share their stories, ideas, and writing in a **respectful**and **professional**manner and fulfill the Ampersandmission:  “To highlight the achievements of Honors College students, staff, and faculty, to report on Honors College events, and to provide a forum for students and faculty to share interesting experiences and opinions, all for the purpose of fostering a sense of community and celebrating diversity among the constituents of the Honors College.” All submissions will be reviewed and edited by the Ampersandteam before being published online, and we retain final editorial authority to reject submissions at our discretion. A total number of five blogs from the contest (including the winner) will be posted on the Ampersandwebsite. Honors College staff will choose the final winner.

The deadline for the blog contest is **Wednesday, April 1st by 5:00 PM.**Submissions should be emailed to [uicampersand@gmail.com](mailto:uicampersand@gmail.com). You are welcome to submit more than one blog entry for the contest.

All submissions should be attached as a Word document and include the author’s full name, NetID, and year at UIC. Please also include a creative title for your piece and attach a high-resolution photo that you have permission to use to go with your submission!

The winner, who will receive a **$100 gift card to the UIC Bookstore**, will be announced at the 2015 Honors College Publications Party on Monday, April 13th at 4:00 PM.

Please visit the Ampersand website (http://ampersand.honors.uic.edu/category/blog-posts/) to read past blogs. Questions and comments can be sent to [uicampersand@gmail.com](mailto:uicampersand@gmail.com).