

# Work that matters



Beth Richie calls herself an academic activist. It's an apt description. For 30 years, Richie, professor of criminal justice, African-American studies and gender and women's studies, has been working for better treatment of black women.

She was named the UIC Woman of the Year in 2006, an award given by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women to a UIC woman who has consistently studied women's issues and serves as an exemplary role model. She is also a 2006 University Scholar.

Richie believes academic research should ultimately affect her community and society as a whole. She researches the relationships among race, class and violence against women. "We're obligated to do work that matters and we care about," she says. And research others weren't doing. "There was a group of us who were frustrated that our perspectives were falling outside the view of the more dominant class," she says. "White feminists did not really address race and class issues."

That frustration led Richie and colleagues to form INCITE!, a group dedicated to ending violence against women of color through research and activism. More than 2,000 people attended the 2002 conference at UIC. The group just published an anthology of critical writings, "Color of Violence: the INCITE! Anthology."

The significance of her research has been recognized with grants from the Ford Foundation, the National Institute of Corrections, the National Institute of Justice, the MacArthur Foundation and the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Richie is a dedicated mentor to graduate students and junior faculty. "Mentoring is important to me because I've been mentored," she notes. "There are people throughout my life who have taught me important lessons. I am deeply committed to urban public higher education and, to me, teaching at an institution like UIC is a privilege."

Reporting by Sabryna Cornish and Brian Flood, UIC News Bureau

## URBANA

### Presidential award to Kachru

Yamuna Kachru, professor emerita of linguistics in Urbana, received the Presidential Award from the president of India last September. She traveled to New Delhi to receive her award from President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The author of more than 50 research papers on aspects of Hindi grammatical structure, Kachru is considered a pioneer on the interface of language, society and discourse in Hindi.



## CHICAGO

### Alinsky Group archives

The archives of the national association founded by community organizer Saul Alinsky are available for viewing at the Richard J. Daley Library at UIC. The collection of photographs, training materials, organizers' field reports, campaign materials, correspondence, annual reports and newspaper clippings from 1952 through 2004 documents social movements around the United States that used Alinsky's organizing tactics to improve housing, employment and education for lower-income people. It also contains information about redlining and blockbusting during the 1950s, segregation in the Chicago Public Schools, attempts to integrate Lake Michigan beaches, voter registration drives and fights against dishonest merchants, according to Julia Hendry, UIC assistant special collections librarian.





### URBANA

#### Documentary gets broad play

LeAnne Howe, an award-winning author, playwright and scholar, showcased her new documentary, "Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire," at various locations around the country and on public television in the fall of 2006. Howe, an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma who teaches in Urbana's American Indian Studies program and in the master's-level creative writing program, served as the screenwriter and narrator for the documentary, the second in a two-part series.



### CHICAGO

#### Encyclopedia of prejudice

Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies Richard Levy edited "Antisemitism: A Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution." The two-volume set drew praise from an American Library Association reviewer for its "scrupulously objective information." The encyclopedia has more than 600 entries written by more than 200 scholars from 21 countries, as well as a detailed index.



### SPRINGFIELD

#### UIS music director wins Terkel award

Karl Scroggin, music director and on-air host for UIS public radio WUIS 91.9 FM, was named a recipient of the 2006 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award presented by the Illinois Humanities Council. The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the cultural lives of their communities. Scroggin is also the fine arts reporter for WUIS and has logged almost 200,000 hours on the air and serving the Springfield community. Pulitzer Prize winning author and Chicago legend Terkel hosted an eclectic music and interview program on Chicago public radio from 1952-97.

### CHICAGO

#### Morphing to Venice

Can Chicago become the next Venice? That's the vision of Sarah Dunn, assistant professor of architecture in Chicago. Dunn, a principal in UrbanLab, and colleague Martin Felsen won a regional prize in the History Channel's "City of the Future" competition and were the overwhelming favorite in Internet voting for the national prize. The team envisions a Chicago where eco-boulevards encircling the city would move treated wastewater and storm runoff back to the Great Lakes Basin. The canals would become a city amenity to be enjoyed by residents and encourage residential development along the southern and western parts of the city.

### URBANA

#### Extension extends helping hand

Extension educators in Macon County in Illinois adopted hard-hit Hancock County in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina struck the region in 2005. In the early days after the hurricane, the Macon staff sent cleaning kits, animal feed and hay, followed by small appliances, clothing and sundries during the holiday season. In 2006, the county extension agents collected almost 7,000 cookbooks to be distributed among Hancock residents who were pleased to discover treasured family recipes among the books.

