1. Welcome & Dinner

2. Speakers for tonight:
   - Natalie D. A. Bennett, PhD, Director of Women's Leadership & Resource Center
     - Women’s Leadership and Resource Center, and Campus advocacy center
       - Located: 1101 West Taylor Street, 3rd Floor, (Above Chicago Public Library)
       - They respond to extracurricular questions and needs. They focus on feminist programming and issues.
       - They host a variety of events:
         - An exhibition involving the feminist and queer response to sexual violence
         - They also conduct a Lunch Lecture Series - Inviting advance graduate students and faculty talk about their work on problematizing on feminist practices, questions to advance
         - Lecture ONWARD series - Focusing on difficult questions in a relaxed setting.
         - Page Turners – Reading and discussing books together
         - Bringing speakers from other fields to bring different perspectives
       - Key Program – Campus Advocacy Network (CAN)
         - They support and advocate for people who currently/has suffered from stalking, assault or sexual misconduct
           - They find accommodations
             - Emotional support
             - Campus Housing
             - Psychological consultations
         - They educate anti-violence, and how to respond to violence
           - Training with sorority life
           - Response to inquiries and concerns
         - Support for undergraduate students, and have adapted for the rest of university and learning how to approach different circumstances.
         - They spread information
How to report Inter-Personal Violence:

- Students come to TA’s how to respond
- Every unit at UIC must report (few exceptions)
- Confidentiality only applies to Counseling Center and Campus Advocacy Network
- Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is a federal statute requiring colleges and universities participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information.

Mandatory Reporting – the institution must respond to the event
- Timeline of events from the UIC Police
- And these must send to Dean of Students to then decide to approach the situation

What to do when someone discloses to You
- Explain your mandatory role
- Or, refer that person to someone else
  - Help them get information for themselves
- You should tell the head of your academic Unit
  - “I sent information to Title IX office”
  - As the Title IX office will approach the department
- Check-In with the person

Questions:
- Is it possible to coordinate workshops for one’s department?
  - Response: Yes, CAN will help create workshops to inform and guide the department members on rules and policies.
- Is it an easy process to conduct this workshop?:
  - Response: There might be a process you might have to approach the Department Chair
- What is covered under the term of “violence”?
  - Response: Within UIC culture and policy, sexual misconduct or assault is prohibited. The UIC is stringent on this. The anti-violence culture is strong, and the University would respond against it.

Contact the speaker for different programming, workshops or education:

ndab1@uic.edu

And for more information please visit: https://wlrc.uic.edu/
Vincent Adiutiori, PhD, Adjunct Lecturer, GC 512 "Written Communication and Presentation Skills"

- Graduate College helped create this course around 2016
- Originally for STEM students, then expanded for Humanities and Social Sciences
- Lecture talks for the first 6 weeks
- For STEM field, the focus is on the brief rhetoric on the sciences, then writing for a broad audience
- Humanities and Social Sciences, the course starts with annotated bibliography and literature reviews
- There are Peer review sessions, with a focus on particular problems
- Also practiced on: Conference papers, dissertations, job materials, presentations
- Oral presentation, lighting talks, and 5-min presentations for STEM students; Social sciences don’t do those kind of presentations
- The professor allows for work across disciplines, allows for smart communication and integration
- Four things he wanted to focus on within the course:
  - The specific terminology in writing
  - Practice in a proper writing environment
  - Multidisciplinary aspect allows for there to be a focus on writing, itself
  - Oral presentation practice
- Pass/Fail class for 3 cred hours
- Open to all international and domestic students
- Enrollment process:
  - Screening process- making sure there’s a project that students are writing, so they want students that are finished with coursework to allow for better management
  - Contact your DGS for eligibility
  - Welcoming no matter skill level or stage
- Clarification: There are two different sections: one STEM and another non-STEM
- The students are asked to work on two writing projects.
- Contact the Dr. Adiutiori by email: vadiut2@uic.edu
- And visit website for more information: http://engl.uic.edu/events/department-colloquium-vince-adiutori/

Jeff Schuhrke, Co-President. Graduate Employees Organization.

- GEO is the union of UIC student workers
  - Most activist are either RA’s or TA’s
They argue for contracts for students
- Protects against student workers
- Negotiation help improve contracts
  - Negotiation from March
- University wants to increase salary by $1400 over 5 years
- Not accepting that, they want a substantial greater amount.
- The speaker stated that UIC RA’s make ~10,000 less than other universities
- Fee waivers are protected by these contracts, but they are arguing for more:
  - For example, International students should have fee waived
  - Speaker argued that: Created in 2013, and the fees were increased for no publicly-stated reason
  - Appointment policies vary by department and not clearly established beforehand. So, they want departments to explain the criteria and reasoning behind their policies to protect against unfair practices.
- Please visit their website for more information: http://uic-geo.net/mainsite/
- They have Facebook (facebook.com/pg/uicgeo) and twitter (
- They want to also help with faculty unions
- They are forming coalition with all the other unions
- The GEO is member driven and depends on students
- They are currently looking for new members
- They have an upcoming contract campaign
- Question: A representative asked if a strike will be organized. The speaker announced that voting on such an event will be coordinated around February.

- Cory Reiter, G3-MD/PhD Candidate, Representative of the UIC Mental Health Task Force.
  - Focus is on mental health for health profession students and grad students
  - “Trends in mental health are staggering and frightening”
  - The task force was coordinated by the Chancellor in order to understand and combat the decline in mental health exhibited by students.
  - Chancellor assigned administrative faculty and students to take the lead.
  - The members are tasked with challenging the current problems surrounding mental health care.
  - Resource allocation is a crucial aspect to the many problems.
- The speaker’s contact info: creite3@uic.edu
The speaker is asking for students to approach her with their problems in getting the help they need.

Speaker opened the floor up for comments:

- Representative: When one wants to go to the Counseling center, there’s long backlog, with long wait times.
  - Speaker acknowledged: The counseling center is aware of these issues and they want to improve their resources for students.
- Representative: Students in the west campus are challenged with having to travel to the other side of campus to receive help from the Counseling center.
  - Speaker: There is a barrier to access, and there once was a program on the west side but was closed.
- Representative: There’s only 20 therapy sessions allotted to students, is there a way to increase the number sessions?
  - Speaker: That certainly is a short-term solution, however the counseling center does refer to external long-term solution if the situation requires it. Although, it is still a problem as they’re also limited to small staff and backlog.
- Speaker: The scope of the task force will be to broaden assistance beyond counseling center. As there should be a wide battery of resources. However, there’s a definitive need to improve information and awareness.
- Representative presented the idea of asking departments to help spread more information on these resources.
  - Speaker: They will try to promote the incorporation to all syllabi.
- Representative requested for a list of all available resources around campus.
  - Speaker wants to create a list for all resources, alongside the task force. Once completed, the list will be distributed to all representatives.

3. Updates from the GSC Officers:

- Nomination for the GSC Vice-President
  - Vice president Carrie Nacht stepped down.
  - New vice president is needed, voting based on constitution
  - Officers nominate Pratik-Sanjeev Deshpande
  - The majority vote decided: Pratik-Sanjeev Deshpande will be Vice-President

- Updates on GSC website, by Juan Maldonado, GSC Secretary
  - New “re-vamped” website should be ready and online by the end of January.
4. Project awards presentations:
   - Meloddye Carpio & Victoria Tissera - “Spanish Film Club”
     - Spanish Film fest
     - Films from 5 different countries
     - Approaches different topics
     - These films represent the different films in Latin America and Spain
     - They will have a round table discussions on the films, with different faculty members.
     - And so, they ask for GSC to help cover the costs of select films
     - Will include subtitles for non-Spanish speakers
     - Not charging for entrance
     - Catering limited to 25 people for catering cost, they hope for more people, around 50-60 people per film.
     - The event will take place: March 18-22, Daley Library Conference room 1-407
     - Keynote speaker will be brought into the discussion by Skype
     - Covered partially with Latino Film Festival
     - They will publicize the event with the GSC logo, as required.
     - Voting Decision: Yes, GSC will assist with the film festival.
       ■ On the condition, they advertise the event on West Campus and online for all students
   - Shariwa Oke - “2018 Frank Armitage Lecture Series”
     - The Frank Armitage Lecture series took place, previously 10/18-20/18
     - Topic included how art shaped medicine in Rome.
     - They argue it was beneficial to all students, as the discussion covered different disciplines
     - They are asking for retroactive funding
     - They got assistance from the Biomedical visualization department.
     - They host this particular event every two years.
     - More graduate students than health professionals attended the event
     - Voting decision for reimbursement: 25 – no, 20 – yes. GSC will not retroactively assist with this event.
   - Lauren Schwerzler - “Unapologetic: A lecture by Charlene Carruthers”
     - Radical Public Health organization representative from graduate students
     - They will discuss the “Epidemics of Injustice” book by Charlene Carruthers
       ■ Community speaker each week
       ■ Theyre bringing Carruthers February 7th
     - For Graduate students, open to all
○ Benefit will be to help understand racism, poverty and sexism.
○ Speaker is from Chicago and active in Chicago movements
○ They’re requesting $500
○ Will take place at West campus
○ Keynote speaker from last year was funded from GSC
○ Book club is organized by Radical Public Health and Minority Students for Public Health
○ They can host the event for 500 people
○ GSC can help with room reservations.
○ No registration fee and open to public
○ Voting Decision: Yes, GSC will assist with the film festival.
  ■ On the condition, they advertise the event on East campus and online for all students

5. Three Minute Thesis:
   ● Ritesh Jagatramka “Energy Storage Systems”, Department of Civil and Materials Engineering
     ○ Postponed for next General Meeting

6. Representatives Sign In & Adjournment of the General GSC meeting