

UIC INVESTS IN NEW STUDENTS - FORGETS THEY USE THE BATHROOM

UIC is riding a wave of new student enrollment and everyone is excited! No matter where you go on campus you find students overwhelmed with enthusiasm. James Coy, a first-year biology major, tells us that “it’s lonely here. It’s too easy to enroll in whatever course you want. And lines for food? Forget about it, I can get in and out of any restaurant I want in under 30 seconds.” Eileen Santiago seconds that notion, she tells the MEMO “I’ve been here for 3 years and there’s just no traffic, ever. It’s quiet here, sometimes I’ll go a week without seeing another person on campus.” With the ample space and resources to go around, UIC administrators have pursued a successful campaign to busy up the joint and invest in modern-day services. We recently sat down with the newly hired facilities managers who will oversee a radical new approach to student bathroom services. Here is our interview:

The MEMO: “Today we’re sitting down with the two new managers in charge of bathroom services, Mr. Dingle and Mr. Berry. Thanks for taking the time to talk with us. Let’s jump right in, everyone knows that UIC has top-notch bathrooms, really top-notch. What could possibly be done to improve the current situation?”

Mr. Dingle: “Well one thing we frequently hear from students is how much they appreciate not having bathroom access in the lecture halls. It really makes them focus more on their studies.”

Mr. Berry: “Yes! Students also tell us how much they admire the mid-century designs. They feel as though the bathrooms haven’t been updated in 40 years. It’s takes real skill to create that vintage vibe.”

The MEMO: “So given all these successes, how could you possibly improve the situation?”

Mr. Dingle: “Students want more interaction and connection on

campus which is why they love the thrill the bathroom stalls offer. The constant game of peek-a-boo with strangers motivated us to make sure none of the stalls lock!

The MEMO: “Isn’t that a lack of privacy?”

Mr. Berry: “But this is a public university..?”

The MEMO: “Nevermind, anything else you’re considering doing?”

Mr. Dingle: “Well, one thing we’ve considered is removing bathrooms entirely from the quad. We think this will give students even more time to focus on what’s important.”

The MEMO: “Like kidney health?”

Mr. Berry: “I’m not sure what you mean by that?”

The MEMO: “Alrighty! Thank you for you time today. And there you have it folks, the future is here, and we can’t wait!”

Our Stories May Differ – But We Can All Relate To: Expectations

"Ever since I was a little kid, my parents always had a lot of *expectations* for me. They *expected* me to be a straight A student, just like my brother. They *expected* me to socialize with people beyond my comfort zone. They *expected* me to take part in dance competitions. They *expected* me to be an involved person in the Indian community.

Even though I tried my best to do what was *expected* of me I was never good enough for them. It was a real struggle to take part in competitions and to become an active member in the Indian community because I was never a social person and I had stage fright. When it came to my education I used to stay up as late as needed in order to finish my assignments and study for exams. When it came time to take my exams, I was unable to recall everything I studied so hard for. So, I could not get good grades which led to my parents' disappointment in me. I was told that they would no longer send me to school or pay for my education if I kept getting less than A's. I was always in honor roll, but I was always compared to my straight A brother.

My family used to tell me that I would never be good enough for them and I will never be smart. These *expectations* that others have for us influence the *expectations* that we have for ourselves."

"It comes as unexpected - the end of the fourth year comes by and you find yourself denied eligibility to graduate. It's almost like the plan you had set for yourself, the expectation you held for yourself has fallen apart at the seams and now you are unraveling like a sweater that hasn't been knitted properly. I had nothing left. I was so sure I was going to graduate in May.

I didn't take into account how I changed my career path. I didn't take into account how it could have possibly set me back because of the different requirements. I was supposed to be this kid turned adult college-graduate right on time and then move on to graduate school and be this success in the family that everyone talks about - my family expected this; my friends expected this; I expected this.

I failed them. I didn't live up to their narrative. I didn't live up to their expectations which somehow became my own - and now I'm here beating myself up about it.

Maybe I can be mindful and slow down a bit and do what I need to do to still be a success - because success is subjective and we all have setbacks. I am still young, and there is still time."

-Current UIC Students

These are real stories told by real UIC students. The student wellness collective wants to remind you that you are not alone. We are the same.

This is a product of UIC's student wellness collection: studentwellnesscollective.weebly.com