



Honors is more than sticking your nose in a book. During this fall quarter, honors students enjoyed a pizza vespers at the home of Honors Director Douglas Clark (above left). Later in October they met for a dessert and fall festival in the South Hall lobby (right and far right).

HONORS EVENTS

INTERESTED IN THE HONORGRAM? If you enjoy writing, taking pictures, or you simply want to be tuned into what's what and who's who in Honors, then be a part of the Honors newsletter. Not only will it look good on your resumé, your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

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THE HONORS PROGRAM began at La Sierra University in 1971. It strives to give special attention to undergraduates of outstanding intellectual and creative ability and aims to charge the imagination in an environment where student initiative is the guiding force. Students are given the opportunity to recognize their potential through encouragement, discussion and interaction. The overall objectives of the program are focused on the La Sierra University mission *"to Seek Truth, to Know God and Ourselves, to Serve Others"*

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HONORGRAM

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THE HONORGRAM

is a newsletter designed to inform and update Honors faculty and students as well as those who are interested in the La Sierra University Honors Program. If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter, or ideas that you would like to contribute, please email us: honors@lasierra.edu



HONORS ON THE MOVE

Honors Students are always up to something. This summer, several of the students in the program (and one recent graduate), traveled the world engaging in learning, research and humanitarian volunteer work. Here are short descriptions of their journeys.

Girl, You Haggle like a Berber!

Leslie Mutuku's summer in Morocco

I knew that I wanted to do something incredible during the summer, but little did I know that it was going to become a life-changing experience.

In August, I traveled to Rabat, Morocco to do volunteer work in the city. I was placed in Lala Maryem Children's Center, which housed abandoned children. My work encompassed everything from helping the nurses bathe the children, make the beds, play with the children, and feed them during meals. The work was demanding, but for me it was an opportunity to spread love and joy to the children. I was also able to interact with the nurses, practicing my Arabic and French. Every morning for four weeks, I found comfort and reward at the chil-

dren's center and realized my love for the culture more and more.

During the weekends, I was able to travel throughout the country. Morocco is unbelievable! It is geographically diverse and the people are so diverse. No place was identical to another and I grew to appreciate the country's history and landscape. I was able to sleep under the stars in the Sahara Desert, hike a mountain, climb and swim in a waterfall, shop in amazing souqs, and get lost in the medinas of Morocco's cities. My senses were never asleep because Morocco tickled all of them.

At the end of my experience, I felt like a new person. The four weeks I spent in Morocco have left me committed to inspiring others to accept adventures and challenges because they will make us stronger in the end. "Insh-allah" (God willing) I'll go back to Morocco.

Check page 2 for stories from Alex Hirata, Debra Marovitch, and Meagan Miller!

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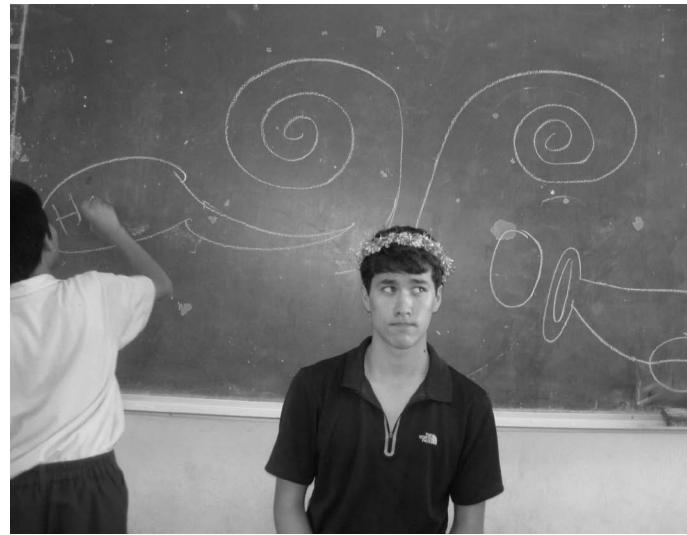
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Alexander Hirata in Yap

Last school year, I had the privilege of serving as a student missionary on the island of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia. At Yap SDA School I taught the 4th grade, a class full of young Yapese and Filipino kids with adorable accents. After my time as a teacher in Yap, I was privileged to be able to organize and run both a summer camp and vacation Bible school program on a neighboring island in the Republic of Palau.

Despite all of the arduous times and events, God led me through my year of service and blessed me more than I could imagine. He took care of me and enabled me to travel, to make contacts in different countries, to do things I could never do as a student here. Above all, he taught me how to live a life of service and love. Last year was the most difficult, most amazing year of my life.



Debra Marovitch in Malawi

Debra is a 2008 graduate of the Honors Program who embarked on a trip to Malawi, Africa this past July. She spent two months in Blantyre, Malawi, working in several hospitals with a focus on health in the country. Her trip gave her the opportunity to shadow her hosts who work with a consortium of universities: Howard University, Loma Linda University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of North Carolina. The work entailed renovating labs and setting up parameters for them to function. As part of her journey to Malawi, Debra engaged in work in the labs to get some experience in the field before starting a masters program in Public Health at Loma Linda University.

In addition to her time working, Debra picked up on the local culture. She traveled around Malawi and learned some of the local language, Chichewa. She found out about Malawi's history and population, visited the local markets, and enjoyed good cuisine.



Meagan Miller in Canada

The last two weeks in August, I traveled to Thunder Bay, ON in Canada. I stayed at Lakehead University in the dorms and walked to the onsite, world-renowned Paleo-DNA Laboratory (<http://www.ancientdna.com/index.html>). Their facilities helped me elucidate the mystery surrounding ancient human bones excavated from a house at Tall al-Umayri, Jordan, dating to 1200 BC. My primary objective for going to the lab was to extract, amplify, and sequence DNA from the tissues. Fortunately, due to the extremely sterile environment of the lab and the superb technique and expertise of the lab staff, we recovered viable mitochondrial DNA. Preliminary analyses were done at the lab but I brought back the raw data for subsequent analysis at La Sierra. Hopefully, more information can be attained from the sources and will be presented in the spring as my Senior Honors Project. My sponsors for my Senior Honors Project are Dr. Lee Greer and Dr. Doug Clark.



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SENIOR HONORS STUDENTS

Chelsea Johnson (Women's Resident Assistant)

Hey ya'll! My name is Chelséa Johnson and everyone that has met me is keenly aware that I am a proud Texan, born and raised. I'm currently a senior biology student aspiring to become an Emergency Medicine Physician.

International travel has become a passion of mine, satisfying my love of learning and experiencing new things. Throughout these past four years, I have traveled to Germany and Turkey with the honors program, discovering firsthand the culture of the Muslim world. I have also been to Malaysia on two expeditions for a month each trip, studying the systematics of amphibians and reptiles for my senior Honors project.

In my free time I enjoy reading, playing volleyball and basketball, spending time with family and friends, eating foods of different cultures, and collecting shoes.

Last, but certainly not least, this year I have the privilege of being the Women's South Hall RA to an awesome group of honorable ladies. I view these ladies as not only my residents but also my friends, and I am looking forward to a fun-filled year with them!



HONORS FACULTY



DR. JOHN JONES

DR. PAUL MALLERY

DR. GARY BRADLEY

DR. GARY CHARTIER

DR. SUZANNE MALLERY

DR. DOUG CLARK

DR. ELVIN RODRIGUEZ

DR. WONIL KIM

DR. KRISTA MOTSCHIEDLER

DR. ANDREW HOWE

DR. DAN TINANOW

DR. JAMES WILSON

JASON ANTHONY

CATALINO BAUTISTA

CATHERINE CUNNINGHAM

RYAN GIL

ALEXIS GLIZMAN

SCOTT MAKOROW

JUSTYNE MARIN

RYAN MCCOWAN

ADIRAH MORGAN

RONALD NANCE

CYNTHIA PALOMINO

RACHEL ROJAS

JARREL SNELING-ARMISTER

CHLOE WALKER

CIDNEE WALKER

JUSTIN WARING-CRANE

JEREN WOOD

ANDREW WOODRUFF

HAN SOL YOO

MARCUS YUNG

FRESHMAN HONORS STUDENTS

MEET THE RAs OF SOUTH HALL

Alexander Wisbey (Men's Resident Assistant)



Alexander Wisbey is a graduating senior, who has spent the last three years of his life as a management and history double major. He has lived in the glory that is South Hall since his sophomore year and enjoys spending his time with other people in the dorm. He also enjoys his role as the men's RA. He has held other leadership roles on campus such as serving as a senator for two years on the Student Senate and being a student representative on the Honors Student Council for three years.

Alexander hopes to continue his studies at a prestigious law school after graduating.



THINKING CHRISTIANS ENGAGING CULTURE TOGETHER

by Steve Pauluk, Provost of La Sierra University

White defines as "individuality - power to think and to do"¹

- Humanity rejected God's universal foundational principles
- We have been redeemed through the grace of Jesus Christ
- In this cosmic Great Controversy, God was willing to risk the universe in order to offer his children freedom of choice.

That worldview affects how we approach literature, interpret scientific data, understand history, exegete and apply Scripture, and relate to each other. It influences the content, pedagogy, and research which we employ at La Sierra University.

Parenthetically, it is fascinating to notice God's response when Adam and Eve made a poor choice. (After all, choice is not choice if it does not also allow for wrong choices to be made.) When confronted, Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent pointed at God who made the tree. God did not respond . . . until millennia later when Jesus accepted the responsibility on the cross. Personal freedom must surely be an integral part of God's character and universe.

So, we are Christians, but we are thinking Christians. There are blind-faith Christians. There are Uncle Arthur-sanitized-Bible-story-Christians. There are seed-on-the-shallow-ground-Christians. But we aspire, together, to use the minds that God has given each of us. Along with other Christians, we affirm that all truth is God's truth,² and so we aim to challenge each other respectfully. We agree to provoke each other to do good work³ through disciplined critical thinking,⁴ which aims for:

- Accuracy, precision, and clarity
- Relevance and sufficiency
- Logic
- Depth, breadth and significance
- Fairness

We agree to study the Scriptures with informed inquiry, seeking eternal principles that are derived from careful investigation of the style and context in which the text was written.⁵ We agree to exegete God's Book of Nature

with equal rigor and openness to the truths which God is revealing concerning himself and his working in the universe.

We are thinking Christians in the world and in its culture. Jesus prayed that God would be with his disciples in the world,⁶ not to take them out of the world as a fearful and anachronistic cult. We are called to be the salt of the earth⁷ which actually becomes part of the food that it salts. Its presence is noted, not by the appearance of the salt particles, but by the improved taste of the food. So we learn at La Sierra University, not in order to escape culture, but to engage it.

Now, "engage" does not mean to automatically adopt. It means engage. This can include:

- Benefiting from culture
- Decrying culture
- Transforming culture
- Adapting culture
- Enjoying culture

Of course, in order to do any of these things, we must make the assumption that contemporary expressions of culture are worth our attention in the first place. I believe that they are, because politics, literature, film, art, science, and current events express the hopes, concerns, creativity, struggles, and exuberance of God's children, believers and unbelievers alike.

And our university community of thinking Christians engages culture together. We are all part of the one body of Christ.⁸ There are a few strident voices calling for the amputation of some parts of the body. But we must resist fighting against ourselves and among ourselves. Although the push and pull of exercise can be beneficial to the body, and the good-faith clash of ideas will probably improve us, we must stop our self-mutilation of the body of Christ and seek to be a healthy, growing, and ministering body.

Together also means that we are a learning community where diversity is not only celebrated for its own sake, but because we enjoy, and are enriched by, the cornucopia of perspectives that our diverse experiences, cultures, educa-

(continued on page 4)

I learned, from my father, that education is of the highest importance. Neither of my parents had the opportunity for much schooling themselves. Circumstances conspired to prevent them from that privilege. So, I am the first person in my family to earn a high school diploma. But my father, who worked hard, from dark to dark, to earn a living and to keep my sister and me enrolled in Seventh-day Adventist schools, told me often, "Stephen, put as much knowledge as you can into your head. It won't get any heavier to carry around." My father was right.

Education has enhanced my quality of life, enabled many interesting adventures, and enhanced my spiritual journey. In turn, I have had the privilege of serving as an educator for 29 of the 34 years that I have worked as a part of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. I have had the opportunity of serving at three Seventh-day Adventist institutions of higher education, and to visit or consult at others.

Based on my vantage point, it is clear to me that La Sierra University holds a special and sacred position among secular, Christian, and Seventh-day Adventist institutions of higher education. Our university's mission and organizational climate work together to produce an extraordinary community where thinking Christians engage culture together.

Of course, all universities purport to engage in thinking. But ours is a Christian university, and to sharpen the pencil a bit, a Seventh-day Adventist university. This means that we begin with certain assumptions and conduct our inquiry from the perspective of a particular worldview. We stipulate, from the start, that

- God created us in his image, which Ellen

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Of Communities Local and Global

It's not that I would choose to go to Kansas City in October nor, for that matter, pretty much any time of the year, but there was good reason this time.

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) was holding its annual conference in Kansas City 20-24 October. The NCHC is the premiere organization of Honors programs in the country and represents the top of the line in Honors education programs, curricula, communities, best practices.

Of greatest importance to me were numerous conference sessions on two of the salient features of La Sierra's Honors Program—1) study tours abroad and 2) the learning community of Honors students on our campus, in particular the Honors residence hall.

1) Virtually all Honors programs sponsor international travel as the most effective way to immerse students in the cultures of the world and, in the process, to develop understanding and respect for others and their perspectives. Our hopes to foster and facilitate informed relationships with others, especially those in far-flung neighborhoods of our global village, depend on study tours. What surprised me was the small number of programs, at least of those represented in sessions I attended, that require international travel. Lots of options for study tours and incentives to enroll in them, but not require-

ments. The reason comes down to money; it costs a lot of money to go overseas. At La Sierra, thanks to generous administrative and financial policies governing international student travel, we can require of students the tours that make it possible to experience foreign cultures first-hand, and we can make it easier for them to afford it—likely only the cost of tuition for the LSU tour to Turkey.

2) A number of sessions and a good deal of discussion focused on Honors residence halls and the development of living-learning communities.

While some were concerned about potential problems like elitism and isolation from the rest of the campus, most pointed out that Honors students are typically deeply engaged in the life and student leadership of their universities.

While we often complain about not having enough—funds, space, equipment—I have to admit that La Sierra's commitment to both intentional and informed travel away from home and a great place for Honors students to call home is strong and sustainable. These elements of the University Honors Program rank our program with some of the best in the nation. In our quest to create communities of faith and learning on campus and at local and global levels, we continue working to improve our program based in part on what Kansas City conversations have taught us.



HONORS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Honors Community Involvement Projects are an attempt to encourage students to engage in their communities to transform and build them with integrity, courage, openness, and compassion; to charge students' imaginations as they recognize their own social responsibilities; to facilitate students as they begin developing their worldviews and value systems that will sustain this engagement; and to develop the potential to reach the highest levels of leadership, becoming the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Project RICH

Fern Nelson, Christina Thompson

After volunteering at the Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Ranch, Inc. for our Changing Communities project and seeing the needs, we decided to fashion our project around helping them generate some revenue. We named our project Project Raking In the Chips, code name Project RICH. The ways we decided to help them generate revenue had both short- and long-term phases. The short-term was a fundraiser held at the facility to spread local awareness, while the long term was a brochure and newsletter that could be sent either yearly or biannually to people already familiar with the facility and who wanted to support.

Community partner: Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Ranch, Inc.



Common Ground: Building Community through Gardening and Healthy Living

Leslie Mutuku, Alex Wisbey, Ivan Rybkin, Brandon McCowan

In the past couple of years, there has been a growing movement towards sustainability in a world running out of resources. Ultimately, there needs to be a change in our behavior regarding health and the environment. Because of this, our group decided to focus on raising awareness about healthy living. Our project involved two parts. First, we established a working organic garden on the La Sierra University campus, and second, we educated the community on living sustainably when behaviors tend to be unsustainable. This included educating about healthy food habits, about caring about our environment, and realizing the impact of our consumerist behavior on the world. Community partner: Arlington Rotary Club



Inner Strength:

From Self-Respect to Self-Defense

Grace Aragon, Rebecca Barcelo, Zack Jagers, Jasmine Silva, Joshua Yap

'Inner Strength' is a self-defense program that originated at La Sierra University which draws inspiration from and partners with UC Riverside's program 'Within Her Strength'. It includes gender-inclusive sessions for college students where physical methods for self-defense are taught, such as martial arts, along with mental techniques for assertiveness, confidence, protection of one's own space and the value of each person. It is the goal of Inner Strength to fight against the abuse and sexual harassment that so often happens on college campuses by giving students the tools to be assertive, aware and able to defend themselves.

Community partner: La Sierra University Women's Resource Center



Operation T.E.X.A.S. (Teens EXcel At Safehouse)

Chelséa Johnson, Meagan Miller

Operation T.E.X.A.S. was established specifically for the teen shelter, Operation Safehouse. Through careful observation of their program for the teens, called clients, we devised a plan that would meet their current need. The purpose of our program was to implement an improved educational system, to organize their client manual, and to increase volunteer support. It is our primary goal, after clients finish our program and Safehouse procedures, that they will be able to rejoin the community and become a positive influence to those around them.

Community partner: Operation Safehouse



Grant Writing for Giving Children Hope Medical Van

Rachel Salvador

The Orange County Health Needs Assessment estimates that over 2 million people in Los Angeles County are living without health insurance. Giving Children Hope's Mobile Medical Clinic will increase access to health-care for this population by providing care to an estimated 12,000 people per year once it obtains funding for refurbishment. The goal of this project has been to obtain the necessary funding for the van to make it operational. Although funding has not yet been obtained, a solid groundwork of connections and representation to funders has been laid that will allow the clinic to be funded within a year.

Community partner: Giving Children Hope



Thinking Christians (Continued from page 3)

tional backgrounds, family histories, theological understandings, and personal preferences bring to our open and respectful interactions in the classroom, residence halls, dining commons, and everywhere else on our campus.

So, we are a community of Thinking Christians Engaging Culture Together.

This is the gift that La Sierra University can offer to its students, faculty, and staff.

This is the important service that La Sierra University can present to its church.

This is the contribution that La Sierra

University can proffer to society, to our community, and to our world.

Endnotes

1 White, Ellen. (2000). *True Education*. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association. p. 12.

2 White, Ellen. (2000). *True Education*. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association. p. 9.

3 Hebrews 10:24

4 Paul, Richard & Linda Elder. (2008). *Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*. Dillon Beach, CA: The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

5 White, Ellen. (2000). *True Education*. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association. p. 102, 103

6 John 17:11 & 15

7 Matthew 5:13

8 1 Corinthians 12:27