



HONOR GRAM

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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WINTER QUARTER 2008



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 RETREAT

by Debra Marovitch

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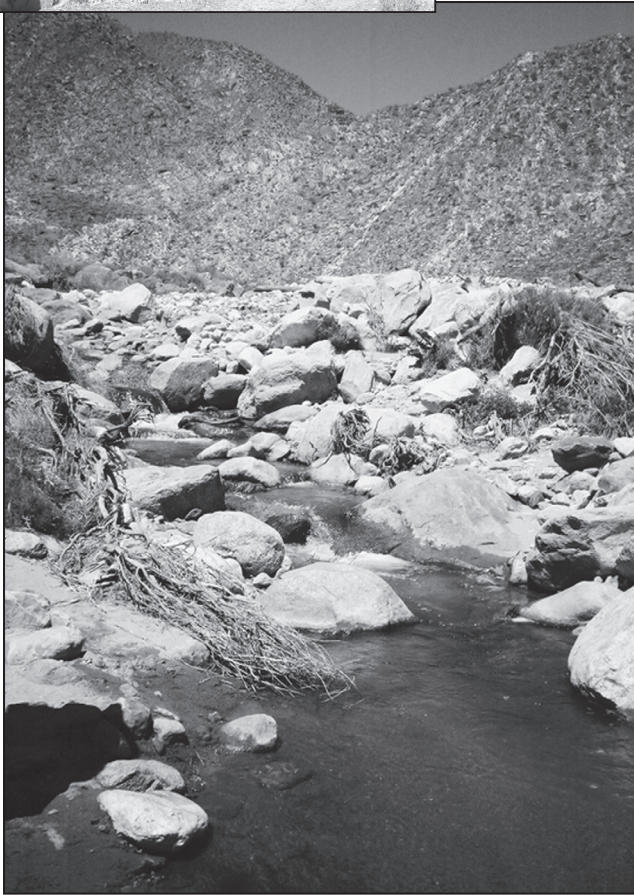
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As students—and faculty—in the Honors Program at La Sierra University, we are used to seeing each other in a fairly limited academic setting. Apart from the International Experience tour freshman year, most of our contact is in the classroom. Even while enjoying time together in the South Hall dormitory, students often have the threat of looming assignments or approaching tests, and we seldom have the chance to simply be together and relax in a social setting for an extended period of time. Therefore, one of the purposes of the Honors Student Council is to plan events where we can socialize and get to know each other in a less formal setting. The Council plans monthly dessert hours, as well as a quarterly vespers, movie nights, and a variety of other events. Unfortunately, none of these events takes us very far out of our normal university setting to broaden our friendships. That is why, when

the Honors Student Council met for the first time this year to start planning events, one of the first ideas that was brought up was to go on a camping trip.

In the past, the Honors Campout has been an annual event, but for various reasons one has not taken place for a few years. When the idea was presented to the Honors students this year it was universally supported, so we, as council members, got to work. California has a variety of camping locations available, with the beach, the desert, the mountains to choose from—and everything in between. The students as a whole preferred some type of mountainous or forested area for camping, so we had to narrow it down to a site within a relatively close driving distance and one that would not be too cold in the winter/spring months that were available in our busy student schedules.



Since we have a wide range of levels of camping experience in our program—with everything from the first-time camper to seasoned veterans—we needed to find something that would be diverse enough to have something for everyone. Our research led us to a state park called Cuyamaca Rancho, located about 50 miles east of San Diego, in the mountains overlooking Anza Borrego.

There is a wide array of wildlife, especially birds, and a nearby lake adds to the ambiance. The park has an interesting history that offers a kind of cross-section of California's history as a whole, spanning from Native American inhabitants, to Mexican rule, to its own gold-rush stories, to its admittance into the California State Park system. Because of its location between the desert and the coast, Cuyamaca Rancho has a somewhat unique ecosystem. It boasts beautiful oak woodland forests, with an interspersing of meadows and pine trees. Creeks and over 100 miles of trails meander through the park, with two such trails leading up to Stonewall and Cuyamaca peaks, which offer views of the desert to the east, the coast to the west, and Mexico to the south. (For more information on the park and all it has to offer, including photos, go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=667)

We will be staying at Paso Picacho campground, where these particular trails begin, the weekend of March 7-9, 2008. Paso Picacho sits at an elevation of 5,000 feet, and has the luxury of restrooms with flush toilets and pay showers, as well as running water every few campsites, and fire pits for late-night conversations over hot chocolate and s'mores. While giving ample time for relaxed socializing, the retreat will also have its own blend of spiritual communion, opportunities for hiking through nature, and corporate game-time. We are looking forward to being out in nature, broadening our horizons, and spending time with each other and with God.

THE STUDENT HONORS COUNCIL

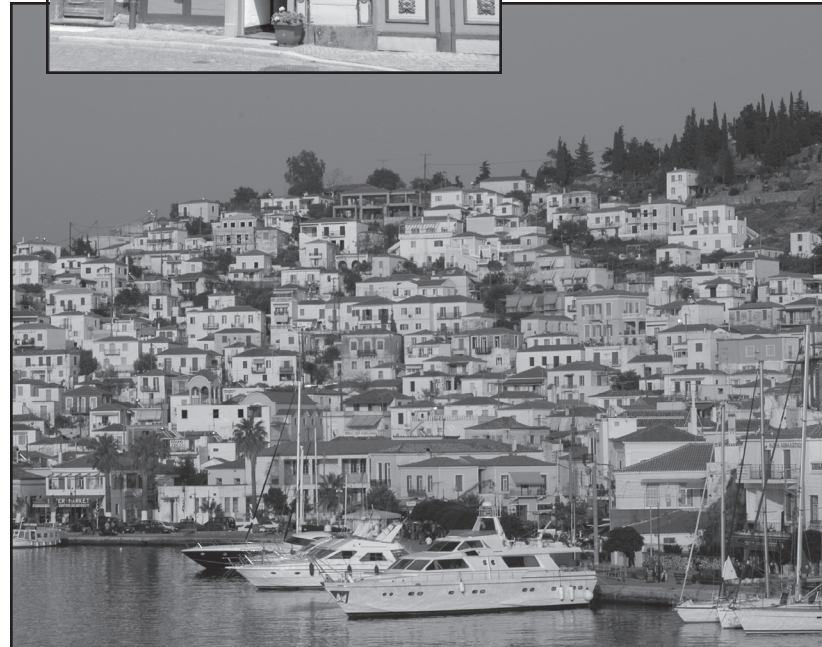
Have you ever wondered who is on the Honors Student Council? Have you ever wondered what they do? From dessert hours to movie nights, vespers to an upcoming retreat, the council consists of a group of students who work hard and plan events for the students in the Honors Program. This year, there are five people who sit on the council - Alexander Wisbey (freshmen class representative), Alexandra Lopez (sophomore), Mary Gamino (junior), Zulema Ibarra (senior), and Debra Marovitch (senior and council chair). If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas that you believe might be beneficial to the Honors Program, please do not hesitate to approach any one of the council members.



GOING GLOBAL by Dr. Suzanne Mallery

The students in the Going Global course (UHNR 121/122) are gearing up for a great trip this summer to Germany and Turkey, led by Dr. Suzanne Mallery. The class has been studying Islam in Europe, focusing specifically on the interaction between the Turks and their European neighbors. This summer we will be traveling to Berlin to explore the experience of Turks and other minority groups living in Germany, and the ways in which Germany has responded to the unique needs and concerns of their growing Muslim population. Like other secular democracies in Europe, Germany has been challenged by the Muslim presence to reexamine church-state ties and to redefine what secularism means in this context. Students will have opportunities to talk with Germans and Turks about their experiences with each other and their opinions about this process. We will also visit historical sites that both celebrate German heritage and memorialize dark times in Germany history.

During the second part of the trip we will be traveling to Turkey, where we will explore the broad sweep of history in Asia Minor, ranging from the Hittites through the Greeks, Byzantines, Ottomans, and finally to the modern secular Turkish Republic. The Turkish Republic is also currently struggling to balance ideals of secularism with religious influences in a state that is 99% Muslim, and students will observe the ways in which this conflict overflows into people's daily lives. We will also have opportunities to talk with Turks about their nation's bid to join the European Union. During our time in Turkey we will visit historical sites from various eras, including the Byzantine church Haghia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace from the Ottoman Empire.



DONATION BOX

HELP MAKE THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE HAPPEN!!

Funding comes from:

1. Honors students
2. The Honors Program
3. Generous donors like YOU!

PLEASE DONATE ONLINE: www.lasierraconnect.org

or write a check today to: La Sierra University, noting "Going Global" in the memo line
and send to:

Honors Program, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, CA 92515.

[To strengthen the development program at LSU, 5% of all gifts will be used to defray fundraising costs.]

THANK YOU! *Your donations are greatly appreciated!*



DR. DOUGLAS CLARK

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

One of the distinct privileges I enjoy as Director of the La Sierra University Honors Program is to be part of the process of encouraging Honors students to develop and express their growing sense of who they are, what they believe and stand for, and how they behave in the world around them.

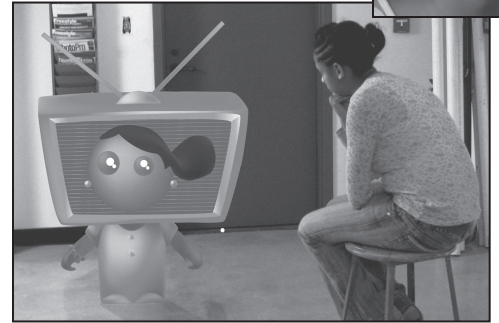
The autumn, entry-level freshmen course—UHDR 101 Beginning to Seek— which I just finished team-teaching with Honors graduate and now counselor in the Center for Student Academic Success, Lynneth Solis-Berdugo, and Honors senior Zulema Ibarra, begins the process. It requires new students to think and talk about their values, beliefs, behaviors, and perspectives. The class culminates in a paper and speech about their emerging collegiate worldviews. It amazes me observing them speak and write passionately about what is important to them as human beings in the world of God’s good creation and how they hope to contribute to the well-being of those around them.

At the other end of students’ Honors experience at La Sierra is the senior capstone course—UHDR 424 Seeking, Knowing, and Serving—currently underway and team-taught with Dr. Paul Mallery (Psychology) and Dr. Robert Dunn (English). This course brings us back to worldviews as a primary point of focus. Having been nudged along over the course of four years of university education to keep thinking about their world and how to relate to it, students grapple with a wide variety of issues. They continue sorting through their own stance regarding faith and learning, adjustments to changing circumstances and environments, the personalizing of their educational and spiritual experiences, and the pressing sense of responsibility they have to be catalysts of change for good in the wider world.

My observations after the first major writing assignment, a draft of their senior worldviews papers: these students are very diverse; they find themselves at various points along the conservative-liberal spectrum; they imagine themselves in quite different ways. But what stands out to me is the consistent level of maturity they exhibit in terms of their sense of the world around them and their place in it as Christians. There is nothing more rewarding than observing and being part of the growth and development of university students in their emerging self-understanding and growing commitments to seek, yes; know, yes; and definitely serve.



by Meagan Miller



by Ciara Talbot



STUDENT FEATURE

by Christian Bosse

Recently a man was found in an adhesives factory trying to abscond with a few products. Fortunately for the police, however, the man became entangled in rolls of adhesive plastic, which rendered him motionless until they arrived. Yes, indeed, the man was caught on tape.

Q: What mathematical tool is most useful to a bovine animal?

A: A cow-culator.

I was at a restaurant with a friend the other day, and simply wanted to acquire one of those well known plastic apparatuses used for sipping drinks at one’s leisure, but after giving him one the waitress informed me that they were fresh out. It made me quite upset, because that was the last straw.

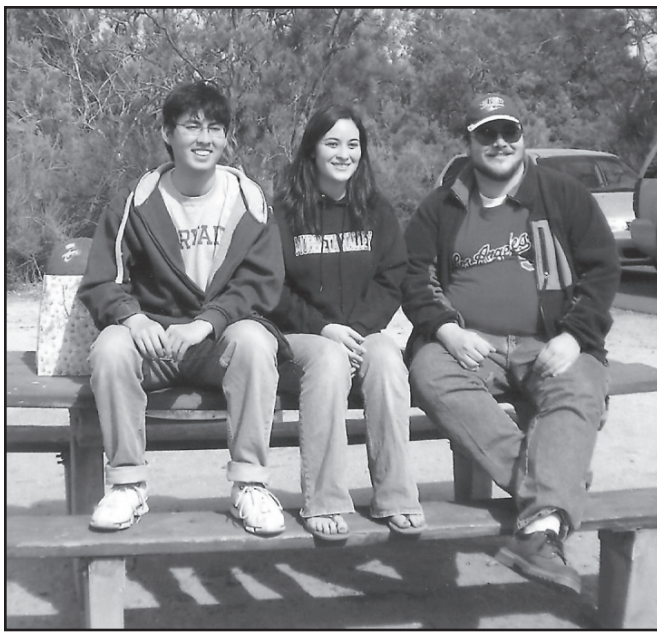
In volunteering for the fire department one day, I was assigned the task of advertising fire safety by distributing and posting papers in distinct places throughout the street. Indeed, my job was to put out the flyer.

And for an old classic: What do you call a do-it-yourself surgery kit? Sutcherself.

We have something going on between us, a sort of chemistry,” said the proton. “Are you sure?” the electron inquired. “Why, I’m positive,” the proton remarked. “But you don’t even know me that well,” the electron replied surprisingly. “In fact, you don’t know me from atom!”

You pre-med types certainly must know how to cure an ailing element. No? It’s simple, you just helium.

To continue the chemistry theme, what did the outraged element king say to his guards about an unruly subject in his courts? “Cesium, before he gets away!”



L to R: Adam Hori, Mary Gamiño, Dean Kurts.

FROM THE MEN'S RA:

Name: Adam Hori

Major: Business Finance

2nd year as an RA

Interesting info: South was one of the first buildings on campus, and several residents had mothers who stayed here when it was a girl's dorm.

Living and working in South Hall as a residential assistant is a positive experience and the people in the dorm make the difference. All residents are very talented. They are involved in campus sports with tennis and volleyball, are actors in drama department productions, and are organizers for SALSU events. There are also artists, musicians, and even a few amateur chefs among us. Yet, it is not uncommon to find residents eating together in the cafeteria or playing games together in the evenings. They also show each other support by attending the musical and drama performances, and cheer on the dorm athletes at games. The community that has been built up by all the residents is unbelievable, and it makes the difference in why South Hall is such a special place to be.

FROM THE WOMEN'S RA:

Hi! My name is Mary Gamiño. I am a junior psychobiology major. My favorite color is green and I love daffodils and the smell outside after it rains. I have been the women's RA in South Hall for two years now. My responsibilities include unlocking residents' doors when they get locked out, letting residents in the halls when they forget their card, sending in maintenance requests, maintaining order in the dorm, and being around when my residents need me. The part I love best about my job is being a friend to my fellow residents. I love working and living in South Hall because all the students here are such caring and unique individuals. It's a mini community with its own warm atmosphere that I am blessed to be a part of.

WINTER HONORS CLASSES

UHNR 121- Global Cultures in Context: Theories and Perspectives,

Taught by Suzanne Mallery. An examination of global cultures and worldviews, focusing on both the content of cultures and the processes present within and among cultures. One or more cultures are selected to study in greater depth in preparation for UHNR 122.



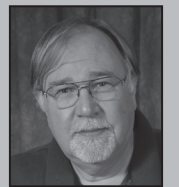
UHNR 122: Global Cultures in Context: The Experience,

Taught by Suzanne Mallery. Exploring an international location, focusing on its cultures, communities, and global context. Includes a three-week international experience.



UHNR 214/214L: The Arts,

Taught by Andrew Howe. An analysis of the structural elements of various visual and performing arts, and a study of form, content, and context as these relate to aesthetic response. Selected primary texts or classics of Western and Eastern literature, art, music, or other forms of aesthetic expression are examined.



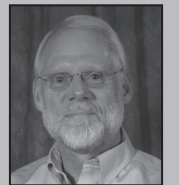
UHNR 324: Science and the Future,

Taught by Dr. James Wilson and Dan Tianinow. Examination of one or more subjects in the sciences or mathematics, emphasizing the current "state-of-the-art" and future directions in the field. Includes social and historical context; moral, political, and legal implications of scientific developments; and connections with religion and philosophy.



UHNR 424: Seeking, Knowing, and Serving,

Taught by Drs. Douglas Clark, Paul Mallery, and Robert Dunn. A senior-level capstone seminar in which students explore themes throughout the University Honors Program, evaluate the development of their personal philosophies and worldviews and the future of their worldviews, and understand how these worldviews relate to the perspectives of different groups across space and time. Special emphasis is paid to the religious and global implications of these worldviews. Revision of the student's portfolio is a central component of this process, and a reflective essay on the entire portfolio is produced.



THE HONORS OFFICE STAFF

by Felisa Meier
Honors Office Secretary

We have a fantastic staff working in the Honors Office this year, each making a valuable contribution to the office itself and the Honors Program as a whole. Mary Gamiño has been diligently updating our website, ensuring that the most up-to-date information is available for current and future students, as well as faculty, staff and other interested parties. Her meticulousness and attention to detail are bringing new life to our online presence. Zulema Ibarra serves as the Honors Student Advisor, providing guidance and information about requirements, substitutions and other details of the program. She often meets with students to give them a personalized analysis of their scholastic needs. Her willingness to help—whatever the task—eases the minds and relieves the confusion of many Honors students.

Alexandra Lopez is the Honorgram editor and unofficial photographer for the program. She coordinates all of the articles for this publication as well as artwork, printing and other essential needs. As you read this newsletter, you can see the depth and breadth of her talents. Julie Muchinyi is our Recruitment Coordinator for the Honors Program. She helps organize our efforts during times of university-wide emphasis on new students, as well as seeking out new options for increasing enrollment in the program. Her diligence has brought us 105 new student contacts to date. Nina Park is the Public Relations Coordinator, publicizing on-campus Honors events and activities. She puts her artistic skill to work by creating eye-catching and animated flyers, as well as other advertising tools for program use. Her commitment to excellence aids in our attempts to create and sustain meaningful community within the Honors Program, as well as making our presence known throughout the campus.

Last, but not least, Mary Gamiño, Zulema Ibarra and Alexandra Lopez all serve as members of the Honors Student Council and, therefore, are liaisons between the council and the Honors office. They are facilitators of our collective agenda as well as assisting with the logistics and planning of various Honors activities and events. Together, each of these students works to make the Honors Program at La Sierra University a more efficient, diverse, informative and interesting place to work, study, learn and grow.



HONORS OFFICE

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Dr. Douglas Clark, *Honors Director*; Zulema Ibarra, *Student Secretary & Advisor*; Felisa Meier, *Secretary*; Juliana Muchinyi, *Recruitment*; Nina Park, *Public Relations*; Mary Gamiño, *Student Secretary*; Alexandra Lopez, *Editor*.

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY
THRU THURSDAY
9 am – 12 pm, 1 pm – 5 pm

FRIDAY
9 am–12 pm

951.785.2310
honors@lasierra.edu



Every month the Honors Student Council plans an event called “Honors Dessert Hour” for the students and faculty in the Honors program to simply come and enjoy an hour of snacks and conversation. This year, the Council has strived to make dessert hour more interactive as seen through past dessert hours such as “Paint Your Own Pumpkin,” “Make Your Own Gingerbread Man,” and “Make Your Own Cupcakes and Snowflakes.” In addition to dessert hours, the Council has more events planned in the future so be sure to watch for announcements!

February 13
HONORS DESSERT HOUR, 6pm – South Hall Lobby

February 22
HONORS PIZZA VESPERS, 5:30pm – Clark home

March 7-9
HONORS CAMPOUT – Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

March 12
HONORS DESSERT HOUR, 6pm – South Hall Lobby



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.

ALEXANDRA LOPEZ

Honorgram Editor

DR. DOUGLAS CLARK

Honors Program Director

FELISA MEIER

Honors Office Secretary

DEBRA MAROVITCH

Honors Campout

SUZANNE MALLERY

Going Global

THE HONORS PROGRAM began at La Sierra University in 1983. It strives to give special attention to undergraduates of outstanding intellectual and creative ability and aims to charge the imagination in an environment where students 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, to Know, to Serve..."

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