Honors Renaissance
By Sapphire Ear

Upon their first visit to the Honors Office, many students step in with the knowledge that sooner or later they would come to regard it as their “home” on campus. This “home” whether they know it or not, was only just recently remodeled; taking only an astonishing two-months to complete. The magnitude of work that had been done to the office looks like it had taken at least a year to complete. So this amazing feat of triumphant completion is indeed very impressive.

Dr. Patsy Oppenheim, Assistant Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, lead the renovation plans for the Honors Office along with the rest of the faculty. Oppenheim remarks, “There was a lot of student involvement, and faculty involvement in the project. But what made it happen in an astonishing 2 months was the University’s complete commitment to the project.”

“There was a faculty re-envisioning committee last year…we wanted to infuse faculty involvement in Honors to a greater level than there’s ever been,” explains Oppenheim.

“I believe that from [the faculty’s] work, we wanted to create a four-year program with high levels of academic standards and equivalent levels of co-curricular activities that valued community service, responsibility, and social peace (to name a few) with lots of faculty involvement and engagement.”

Their first plan of action was of course to tackle the home of the Honors program: the office. Oppenheim notes, “We wanted to take what was ‘worn’ and update and remodel it…start fresh, with spaces that would allow for more faculty, (remodeling) student, and mentor engagements.”

And with that in mind, students filled out surveys. “One of the big

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Honors: A New Era
By: Monica Gil

Since 2009 we have been hearing about the up and coming changes that will be taking place in the Honors Program. Many of us took part in committees and student forums that discussed what we, as students a part of the program, envision the Honors program to be. This year, we have already begun to see many of these changes taking shape. If you walk into the Honors Office, you will find some new faces, one of which includes Dr. Thomas
My Beef With Soaps
By: Tara Castellanos

first of all, i do watch soaps. well, soap. one life to live. i used to be way worse than i am now. i used to be on a three soap a day habit, but i’ve cut it down to one. baby steps. i do realize soap operas aren’t known for having the best acting. it does happen once in a while that soap actors and actresses go on to be famous, big time actors and actresses. most of the time, however, they don’t. it’s pretty clear why when you watch an eppy or two.

i don’t understand why characters on soaps are always talking to themselves, out loud, revealing big secrets, always with their backs turned to some person that really should not be hearing said secret. how stupid. like, you’d think if this secret was so serious, they wouldn’t walk around blabbing it to no one in particular. at least if you wanna be psycho and talk to yourself, look around. make sure no one is behind you. be more careful with your secrets.

another thing. how is it so easy to switch results on medical tests and steal babies and whatnot? what’s the deal with doctors at these hospitals? it seems like pretty much any hobo off the street can put on a labcoat and do a better job at keeping an eye on these babies. wtf?

also, how is it that these stupid hos on soaps have these huge dilemmas about which guy to be with when i can’t even get my hands on one? these girls are hos. why are good guys fighting over them?

how is everyone good looking? there’s no way there’s any city in the world where 100% of the population are models. seriously, even the old people look like they were sexy at one point in time. it’s ridiculous.

A Case Briefing
By: Jamie Tremmel

Case Brief: McCulloch v. Maryland
Title: McCulloch v Maryland (1819)
Citation: 17 U.S (4 Wheat) 316, 4 L. Ed. 579

Facts: James McCulloch, a cashier at the Baltimore branch of the Bank of the U.S, questions the Constitutionality of a tax on the bank. He appeals his case to the U.S Supreme Court on a writ of error after the Maryland Court of appeals rules against him.

Issues: The case seeks to answer two questions. First, is the establishment of a national bank constitutional? Second, if so do States, Maryland in this case, have a right to tax said bank?

Rule: First, the national government is ordained by the whole people not the people of a state or the states collectively. Second, the laws and entities of the federal government are supreme over the states. Third, due to this arrangement, states do not have the power to restrain or impose their will on federal institutions. Last, the Necessary and Power clause is among Congress’s implied powers and it allows Congress leverage in creating the appropriate means in which it wants to facilitate its powers that are enumerated in the Constitution.

Holding: First, the Bank of the United States is Constitutional because the Constitution allows Congress, under the Necessary and Proper Clause, to create such corporations in order to facilitate the powers allocated to Congress in the Constitution. Second, a state does not have the power to tax the bank because of the Supremacy clause and the fact that federal institutions reflect the will of the whole people.
**Miscegenation in the Novel *The Marrow of Tradition***

By: Caitlin Charles

In *The Marrow of Tradition* the issue of miscegenation plays a seemingly small role in the lives of the main female characters. This small aspect of the novel, however, reveals much about race and gender relationships in the post Civil War south, the segregation of “black” and “white” in America, and constructs of race supported by laws.

The issue of miscegenation was central to the conflict of the subplot of Mrs. Carteret and her half sister Janet in *The Marrow of Tradition*. It also reveals much about race relations in general, including how the white supremacists used propaganda centering around ideas of white femininity to undermine the progress and assimilation of African American’s in society after they had gained freedom from slavery. Peggy Pascoe believes that the propaganda of white supremacists along with the anti-miscegenation laws created, “societal constructions that alienate[d] two marginalized groups from each other: African Americans and white women” (Pascoe page 2). The white population, which sought fervently to repress the African Americans, justified killing for the sake of maintaining the purity of white females. It was, also their goal to preserve purity of the race as a whole, and their power which had always been built on a racial construct.

The main plot of *The Marrow of Tradition* shows the instances that led up to a race riot based on the historical “riots” in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1898. This incident occurred due to the propaganda against African American men by white supremacists, which in the novel was carried out by the “big three” through their manipulation of an important newspaper. Just as it occurred in the actual event, the propagandists used not only, “the stereotype of the black rapist, but also to the social construction of white femininity” to incite the hatred of others against their neighbors, and support the overthrow of the local government. (Najmi 2)


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**HONORS STUDENTS: NEWSLETTER WANTS YOU...**

Or more precisely your work...Please send us excerpts of your best academic and/or creative masterpieces! We will publish up to 300 words, so you can send whole pieces or just parts. Get your name in print!!

Submit to: submit2uhpnewsletter@gmail.com
This quarter marks the beginning of a period of extensive change for the Honors Program. The Honors overhaul, which has for all intensive purposes already begun, is slated to take the program to the next level; students will see a marked increase in not only the opportunities afforded them, but also the achievements expected of them.

Dr. David Fairris, The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at UCR, is part of the team heading up Honors' most recent developmental venture. According to Fairris, the principle goal of the overhaul “is to enhance faculty engagement in the program. I want more lower-division honors seminars taught by ladder faculty in small classes. I want faculty more engaged in the day-to-day life of the Honors Program through brown bag lunches and office hours.”

Fairris and his team are refocusing the Honors Program on one of the more traditional goals of collegiate honors associations: direct faculty interaction. The program already offers students Honors classes, easier access to any faculty associated with Honors, and weekly modules featuring a wide variety of UCR faculty, but Fairris’ message is clear: it's not enough.

Another primary goal of the Honors overhaul is the inauguration of a 4-year model. Fairris remarks, “I want a four year Honors Program which builds towards a capstone project (e.g., honors thesis).”

Dr. Perring originally worked in the entomology department and has been involved with agricultural research. He still teaches Entomology 10 to non-major students. Dr. Perring’s research provides processes to manage insects and asks how the biology of insects can be exploited to benefit or detriment of the insects. His role in the Honors office is similar to this very research. How can the resources already available to students be utilized to benefit the students involved?

Dr. Perrin has provided effective management to the University as the Associate Dean for recruiting CNAS students and as the Associate Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education. He deals with students’ success programs across the campus. The programs that Dr. Perrin oversees due to his position as the Associate Vice Provost are: the Honors Program, UCDC, Education Abroad, and the summer quarter of courses for the entire campus.

Although Dr. Perrin has taught Honors discussions in the past, he is still learning a lot in regards to what the Honors Program is all about. He is looking forward to being a part of the big changes that will be taking place in the next year.

As of now the lower and upper division Honors programs are being re-envisioned by committees. Questions like, “what qualities and characteristics should an Honors student possess” and “what should a good Honors thesis look like” are being asked. But, the most radical change that will be implemented is the break from lower and upper division into a complete four-year plan for all incoming freshmen in the program.

Dr. Perrin expressed that he understands the rigorous schedules of the Honors students, but this is the very reason why he and the others involved with re-envisioning the Honors Program want to make it a meaningful, enriching experience that prepares students to be problem solvers and critical thinkers in the real world. He wants them to be attractive to graduate and professional schools and to better prepare them to move past UC Riverside.

So how will these changes be taking place? Dr. Perrin points put that the most vital aspect is faculty integration, which is already beginning to take place. The hope is that faculty will do office hours in the Honors Office, provide more seminars with small class sizes that count towards students’ major coursework, and will design coursework relevant to students’ area of study.

By the end of its reconstruction, the Honors Program should be a recruiting tool for incoming students. Dr. Perrin hopes to incorporate and recognize the diversity of the Honors Programs and construct activities that “bring these diverse populations together to teach each other.”

He believes that problems, in regards to diversity, can only be solved when individuals work with one another, and “what better way than with Honors students.”

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Renaissance from page 1

gest things we’ve realized was that students needed more access to computers and electrical outputs (for those with laptops)” explained Oppenheim, “which is why, we’ve raised the outlets.”

Movable modular furniture was purchased, high stools were acquired, and perches were set up in the computer room. “Basically what we did was took what fit and used it and worked around it,” says Oppenheim.

The entire office was repainted and re-carpeted, and careful consideration was taken even in the selection of desks and chairs for better accessibility and connectibility. Fun-colored accents like the frames hanging on the walls and the chairs in the kitchen were also bought. Patsy described this new office as “functional, fun, but most of all versatile.” She mentions how “it’s just heartwarming to walk in and see all the things that [they’ve] worked on being utilized and enjoyed.”

Many students liked the new office. However, senior Tara Castellanos, though completely content with the new office, finds that the “new office seems a lot more modern and sterile” reminding her of a “doctor’s office waiting room.” But of course, that doesn’t stop her from taking off her shoes and making herself at home on one of the couches.

On the behalf of all the honors students, The Honors Newsletter would like to thank everyone involved in the project for the wonderful contribution and work they have done.

Honors Spotlight on Service

By: Farhad Ghamsari

Being a member of the Honors Program of UCR is a prestigious opportunity, one that helps students achieve their goals and separates them from the rest of the university’s population.

A requirement of being in this program however, is committing oneself to personal growth, self-education, and a commitment to society. As such, the program requires all of its students to complete 10 hours of personal growth, 2 modules, and 10 hours of community service.

To some students these requirements are arbitrary, or even as a hassle; but there are a large number of students who are not only achieving the minimum requirement, but are taking advantage of it and turning it into a way of gaining real world experience and supporting the community, all whilst having fun.

Andrew Banh is such a student and he shared his take on the Honor’s Program’s requirements. He responded that his first impressions were admittedly not the best, but after giving it some thought, he figured that 10 hours wasn’t so bad, especially once one considers how often Emily Nudge sends out emails with service opportunities.

Furthermore, depending on the activity, it could be done quickly, or over a longer period of time each weekend. The community service requirement is a way to give back to the school, the community, and it definitely gets a student out of their comfort zone, and gives them a chance to have fun, that is if they take advantage of it.

“Plus, it’s a way of racking up some good karma,” Banh said with a smile.

According to the University Honors Program website, the “community service and personal growth components of the program provide a framework for students to define their goals, consider their options, and develop practical strategies for life after college.”

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Andrew Banh helping keep Riverside clean after the AIDS walk.

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Affluent middle class enclaves depict widespread prosperity and comfort in Riverside. Not everyone, however, lives in a cookie-cutter or Victorian single-family house.

For some, the streets provide the only shelter they have to protect them from the elements. Many homeless people roam the streets of Riverside unnoticed, left to fend for themselves.

The Student Homeless Aid Relief Project (SHARP) here on the UC Riverside campus is one of the organizations not only recognizing the homeless population in Riverside but also providing resources to them. An Honors student originally started SHARP and the project has continued to serve the community for almost ten years.

Members of the Honors community including the president Spurty Surapaneni and Secretary Patra Sorod among many others continue to be active members of SHARP. Fundamentally, SHARP members meet throughout the quarter on Thursdays to either make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or package hygiene kits to directly distribute to the homeless at Fairmont Park on Saturdays. They also volunteer at a local soup kitchen on Wednesdays.

When asked about SHARP, Sarapeneni commented that “members gain a sense of community” when they meet with each other during the quarter since, “we emphasize interacting with each other.”

Most importantly, “the greatest gift is giving back,” said Sarapeneni,

Fairris says, “Very little will change immediately at the lower-division level, except in the Honors 9 and 10 courses, where there will be more of a focus on analytical reasoning/critical thinking. Lower-division students will be invited to join an upper-division component, with new junior-level courses being offered next year if all goes as planned.”

Fairris, who openly acknowledges the difficulties associated with accomplishing systemic change the likes of which he is proposing, hopes to involve the Honors community as much as possible in the planning and administering of the Honors overhaul.

“Changing culture is never easy. Faculty need to become more engaged, staff need to let faculty do what only faculty can do. Students must focus more on the hard part of developing as scholars, leaders, creative people and less on being satisfied with perks such as priority registration.”

Adjusting to the new Honors Program promises to be a bumpy ride, but with a little luck and a lot of hard work, Honors will emerge stronger than ever.

Visionary from page 4
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Currently, The Honors Program is split into two separate schools of study: Lower Division Honors, in which Freshmen and Sophomore students must complete the HNPG lecture series as well as 4 other Honors classes by the end of their second year, and Upper Division Honors, in which students must create a substantial creative or thesis project with faculty assistance by the time they graduate.

Fairris and his team plan to abolish Lower and Upper Division Honors in favor of a comprehensive 4-year program in which students would, ideally, remain enrolled from Freshman to Senior year. To successfully complete the program, students would have to complete the requirements for both Lower and Upper Division Honors.

But Fairris warns current Honors students not to panic – the changes will not be going into effect immediately.

Hope for Riverside
By Jemmarie Silva

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SHARP from page 6

The UHP highly advocates that students learn to use their “talents and efforts to better the community.” Banh had this in mind when he was deciding to volunteer for the AIDS walk:

“What better way to serve the community, than to help with an event that is supporting one of the world’s biggest concerns?”

Banh has participated in an AIDS walk before as a walker, and he had a really good time doing it; so when he heard at one of the UHP’s muffin mornings that there would be an opportunity to gain community service hours at the AIDS walk in Los Angeles, he wasted no time signing up to participate.

On the morning of Sunday, October 17th, Banh and about 13 other Honors Students made their way to the Volunteer Station in downtown LA. After reporting in and being given their assignments, the volunteers donned their gloves and trash bags and took to the streets, picking up every piece of trash and garbage, in an effort to clean up after the many AIDS walkers.

“It was rather quick and I felt like we did something important, even though technically we were only assigned a small area. But anyway, we got to go home with four hours of community service, and a feeling of accomplishment under our belts,” recalls Banh.

Banh has demonstrated that it is possible to cross off hours on his community service requirement whilst receiving a sense of satisfaction and achievement through the Honors Program, something that all Honors students should aspire to do while being a member of the UHP.

Surviving Finals

By: Reissa Decena

Honors Peers Promoting Academic Success Stratagies (PPASS) is hosting a workshop on Wednesday, November 24th, from 2–3 p.m. The first portion of the presentation will cover strategies for maintaining positive mental health during finals. The second portion will offer practical methods students can use to prepare for upcoming exams. The workshop will count as a module for honors students looking to complete their learning contract. During the presentation, students can participate in a family-feud style interactive game that addresses the top five college student stressors. Academics, unsurprisingly, ranks first on the list as the biggest source of student stress. Though stress during finals week is common – and sometimes in moderate amounts useful – there are a variety of ways in which it can negatively impact daily functioning (American Heart Association).

In keeping with the spirit of de-stressing for finals, the workshop opens with an icebreaker that aims to lessen the almost palpable tension and “members can understand homelessness on a different level by seeing it.”

Secretary Sorod concurs with Sarapeneni that members realize the reality of the homeless from a first person point of view.

SHARP continues to serve the homeless population in Riverside, and those interested in volunteering can always join the project. A minimal fee of five dollars takes care of your membership for the year.

SHARP demonstrates one out of many projects Honors students can or are already investing their time in order to become involved with the Riverside community at large.
Students Leading Honors
By: Eric Gamboa

The Honors Leadership Committee, a new avenue for leadership positions within the University Honors Program, has begun its first year at UC Riverside.

The program consists of a Muffin Morning, Community Service, Newsletter, and Social committee. Omar Kadri, founder and president of the Honors Leadership Committee, stated that the goal of the program is to increase student involvement while providing a forum for Honors students to have their voices heard.

This quarter, the Honors Leadership Committee released an application for students to become involved in the committee of their interest. Kadri expressed his optimism for the program and viewed student turnout as a strong indicator of the program’s popularity. “I am very pleased with the response we received this year. Each of the four Honors Committees added at least three Honors students (who are not peer mentors)” stated Kadri.

Prior to the Honors Leadership Committee’s creation, the four committees were only staffed by Honors peer mentors and were not options for other students. Kadri stated that this circumstance, in addition to the fact that peer mentoring was the sole source of leadership positions within the UHP, influenced Kadri to establish the Honors Leadership Committee.

“My vision for the UHP is one in which Honors students take advantage of the leadership opportunities we are trying to provide for them...The more people that get involved in the UHP, the easier it is to plan large events, and help make a difference within the campus and Riverside community” explained Kadri in an interview.

Continued on page 9
Each committee consists of various activities and have different requirements.

The Newsletter Committee publishes two newsletters a quarter and is composed of writers, photographers, and graphic designers. Topics in the newsletter generally include Honors-relevant stories and academic review sections.

The Community Service Committee is responsible for planning community service events which students can attend to satisfy Learning Contract requirements. Another group whose activities are associated with Learning Contract requirements is the Muffin Morning Committee. The Muffin Morning Committee organizes each week’s Muffin Morning session. Members of this committee are involved with buying food, preparing the Honors lounge, and determining which speakers will attend Muffin Morning.

The Social Committee is tasked with the role of creating activities and events to promote interaction among Honors students. This committee plans trips, retreats, and special events such as the Halloween social.

Elections for positions in the various committees are held every Fall quarter and any student who is in good standing within the UHP is eligible to apply. Students are encouraged to apply and assume leadership roles to represent their fellow Honors peers.

“The UHP is here to help us make our ideas a reality...We want to create an environment in which each component of the Honors Program is able to present ideas, and get feedback and help in making those ideas a reality,” concluded Kadri.

Letters to Santa- Easy hours for community service while also providing a Christmas toy to a child in need. The deadline for toy collecting is December 3rd. The passing out of gifts is on December 9th from 12 to approximately 2pm, with the possibility of the event running over-schedule. The toy is two hours of community service, with the opportunity of 5 hours if you help pass out gifts to Columbia Elementary School in Perris, and more toys!

Toy Drive from November 17th to Friday, December 3rd. Keep in mind: For both events, the toys must be at least $10 in value. Please, no dollar toys!

*1 toy is equivalent to 2 hours of community service, 2 toys is 5 hours (max)

The board will accept any and all student work reproducible on paper.

Honorable Mention- Emily will be out till March 2011. Please contact Kathryn, Gladis, Christine, or Mayra if you have any questions. Congrats to her new baby boy!

Good luck on Finals and have an awesome winter break!