Honors Profile

Arthur Chandra
Honors Profile on Arthur Chandra
by Sapphire Ear

Arthur Chandra’s dedication to contributing his community and helping others in whatever capacity he can sets an outstanding example for his mentees and fellow Honors students. You probably recognize Arthur as the guy frequently sporting a DSLR around his neck and snapping several pictures of anything and everything at every Honors event - that, or as the guy who’s always helping Mayra out at the reception desk.

Arthur lived in Glendora and Redlands, California, as well as the country of Indonesia before finally settling in Highland, California, where he now lives. On a typical school day, Arthur splits his time between his classes and working for Honors. Arthur is heavily involved in Honors as both a freshman peer mentor and a Student Tech assistant. “I help out with various tasks around the Honors office,” comments Arthur, “if someone needs help and I’m available, then I will try to help out as much as I can.”

Apart from Honors, Arthur is also a member of the Film and Photography Society. Arthur loves music and enjoys playing the bass, which he learned by himself, with his friends and at church. He also loves photography (of course), a hobby that is also self-taught. In addition, Arthur also enjoys cooking, whether it is for him or for others, and receives “great joy” from having successfully prepared a feast.

Units Uncapped

By Eric Gamboa

Following the announcement of a 16 unit first-pass enrollment cap for spring registration, university officials decided to raise the cap for University Honors students to 20 units. The 16 unit cap, which eventually was raised after all students had registered, was enacted as a solution for the issue of limited class availability on campus. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jim Sandoval elaborated on the problem via UC Riverside’s Facebook page, citing the “artificially limited course availability” created by students who enroll in excess classes.

Thomas Perring, faculty director of the University Honors Program, offered an additional factor, stating that the university is “seriously over-enrolled, and last quarter there were around 400 students who were not able to get a full-time load of 12 units.” The issue of over-enrollment initially appears unusual, considering the University of California’s financial situation and the decision by UC regents in 2009 to cut freshmen admission.

Nonetheless, UC Riverside witnessed record-high enrollment rates last year. During the Fall quarter of 2010, UC Riverside’s number of enrolled students exceeded 20,000 for the first time in the university’s history. “We are working with faculty to ensure there are enough courses and course...
On September 2nd, 2010, the Pinochet government (a genocidal dictatorship that ruled Chile from 1976-1990) was finally indicted for its violent murder of a catholic priest in 1977. The event marked the first time since the Pinochet government was disbanded that any of its officials had been held accountable for their nefarious acts. The indictment, though hailed as one of the most momentous Chilean court rulings of all time, failed to make the pages of The New York Times, The LA Times, and The Chicago Tribune the next day. While it is perhaps indefensible that the occurrence was more newsworthy than any of the stories that were published in its stead, shouldn’t we be concerned that something so humanitarily groundbreaking was completely neglected by the biggest news industries in America? The American public reads and watches a shockingly paltry amount of international news on a day-to-day basis, as little as one to two stories a week (Internetworldstats.com). In a time of growing global unity, the American media remains stubbornly fixated on the welfare of its own people. Time constraints and corporate budgets aside, mainstream news simply is not doing enough.

The dawn of the 21st century hailed in a new era of political, social, and economic association, an age of ‘globalism.’ Countries are reaching out to one another, or so we are told, in an attempt to facilitate global trade and unite once-disparate states. In the midst of all this international collaboration, how can it be that we hear so little about what goes on in the world around us? In his essay, “Myths of the Global Information Village,” Claude Moisy writes, “The amazing increase in the capacity to produce and distribute news from distant lands has been met by an obvious decrease in its consumption” (Moisy; 79). In a time period wherein acquiring news even in the most dismal of circumstances is easier than ever, most major newspapers and network broadcasts spend only a small fraction of their time on international news. What’s even more disturbing is the way in which foreign issues are dealt with by the
Media from 2... mainstream channels that elect to cover them. International news is segregated into its own separate section of the average news show/paper, as though it is an aside to the real news. Furthermore, the focus of most global news articles the American public reads/ watches is not actually the world, but America. Herbert Gans argues that on most American news channels, “major wars, scandals, and disasters focus attention directly on the nation as a unit, since specific stories often judge individual happenings in terms of their consequences for the country as a whole” (Gans; 23). In short, the only way the American public typically hears about international happenings is if they have a direct or indirect relation to the well being of the American state. International news is also almost categorically negative. We rarely hear about border disputes being resolved or genocidal dictators being voted out of office, only wars starting and famines claiming another meager 1000 lives. Gans goes on to hypothesize that the way in which the American media portrays global issues leaves citizens feeling detached from the rest of the world, as though it is nothing more or less than a problem, one that they cannot solve. If America is truly to take part in a global society, something must be done about the way in which it engages with foreign cultures.

That being said, it is important to note that there is far more at stake here than the attention span of the American public. Globalism, in its purest form, is about creating an international network of cultures that can work together to better the lives of all of our planet’s inhabitants. America’s corporations and politicians may well be globalizing, but the networks they are creating are merely pretense if the planet’s inhabitants themselves can’t or won’t follow suit. People everywhere, no matter how wealthy or impoverished, need to hear and know that they will be heard by the rest of the world in order for a truly globalist society to succeed...

HONORS STUDENTS: NEWSLETTER WANTS YOU...

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As of right now, Arthur is a third-year business administration major with a marketing concentration. He hopes to go on to work in public relations after college and eventually own his own marketing firm. “But for now, I am currently looking for some internship opportunities and hoping to gain some working experience,” says Arthur.

Despite being a CHASS student, Arthur’s favorite school subject is Physics. “I may be a business major and all, but I love learning how things work and explode and stuff.”

Farhad Ghamsari, a good friend of Arthur, calls him a very “nice guy” who’s “very chill”. “He dedicates a lot of time for the Honors Program,” says Farhad, emphasizing the “a lot” in his comment. “And he recently won Heat Press passes in a Photo Contest”.

Tokunbo Ayeni or TK for short, is another close friend of Arthur, and refers to him as a „very brilliant and dependable guy. If I ever wanted to nominate someone for a position that required a lot of responsibility, I would nominate Arthur,” praises TK before going on to add that he “wouldn’t mind paying him any amount of money either.”

When asked to describe his overall experience with Honors, Arthur replied that “the Honors Program has given him a circle of friends and a community that [he] did not expect to find in college, and [he] is so grateful. As a commuter, [he] was ready to accept the difficulty with which [he] will have in trying to make new friends and stay involved on campus. But Honors has been in short awesome.” Keep up the great work Arthur, and I wish you the best in attaining your goals!
Units from 1...

sections,” stated Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment LaRae Lundgren, in a Highlander article written following the announcement of the record-high enrollment rate.

Now facing a lack of sufficient courses and course sections, the university has opted for a registration 2-pass system to alleviate the problem. The 16 unit cap represents a significant inconvenience to UC Riverside’s student population.

First year bioengineering major Kenia Velasco criticized the 16 unit-cap and expressed her dismay at the possibility that registration caps could potentially become a commonplace remedy used by the University. “I want to make sure I graduate on time especially because of my demanding major. The 16 unit-cap forces me to take less classes than I would have otherwise taken, so I hope that this won’t become a reoccurring incidence,” stated Velasco.

Similar sentiment was expressed by students in the Honors Program prior to the 20 unit increase. Concerns regarding the registration cap, however, were soon quelled following an email sent by Professor Perring indicating that he had “been working with the different college offices to resolve the issue.” The email was sent only two days after the initial announcement of the 16 unit cap.

By Friday, February 4, the registration cap had been officially increased to 20 units. “With this success, comes the responsibility of all Honors students to enroll only in the units that you need and to refrain from front-end loading. I have tremendous faith in each of you to abide by this policy as we do our part to assist our fellow students in getting the classes they need,” concluded Professor Perring.

UCR Stands With Egypt
by Alex Maduena

In early February, approximately 100 UC Riverside community members gathered at the bell tower in a demonstration of solidarity with pro-democracy protesters in Egypt.

While participants came from a variety of on-campus groups and backgrounds, Honors students played a major role in the organization of the demonstration. Fourth-year Honors community member Omar Kadri relates how the unity of different religious groups in Egypt presented itself as an opportunity to bring different religious groups at UC Riverside together.

“The one thing that struck me about what was happening was the fact that Muslim and Coptic Egyptians were collectively protesting the corruption within their government,” said Kadri. “This to me seemed like the perfect opportunity for Muslims and Copts on campus to come together for a common cause.”

Cont. on 7...
Christine from 4...

“I’m sorry to see her go.”

Another UCR student who has opted for anonymity also shared her story with me, explaining that Christine helped her organize her schedule when her grades jeopardized her chances at remaining in Honors. “Make it clear that Christine really supported me,” she requested as her interview concluded. “She said things like ‘I want you to do well in math’. She’s really nice. I liked her a lot.”

The sentiments are clear: Christine will be missed. In spite of the short time she spent in Honors, she has captured the hearts of those with whom she has worked, but the time has come to move onto bigger things. Certainly, all of Honors feels the sting of an impactful loss, but there is no doubt that a resounding and heartfelt “good luck and thank you” goes out to Christine.

Honors Relationships
by Carrissa Duran

Relationships take work, they say. I’d like to add that relationships take a lot of work. I mean, being in an adult relationship is hard. As an adult, and more specifically as a college student, relationships can seem like another chore or they can be the very necessary outlet we use to just relax and breathe.

February 14th was Valentine’s Day. It was also the 8th Mensiversary of my relationship. In case you’re not hip to that word, it’s constructed similarly to anniversary, but based on the Latin root for a monthly recurrence instead of an annual one. Look it up on Facebook, there’s a fan page. Considering those two very important dates in a relationship, you could imagine the wonderfully romantic things that my boyfriend and I had planned. Go on, imagine what our date must have been like…

Now take everything you just imagined and throw it out of your mind. I had work and then school until 5pm, he had school from 6-10pm. We didn’t get to see each other until 10:30 at night, at which point a romantic date night was fairly well ruled out. We did get to hang out at Coco’s together and share a bowl of pasta before we made it back to my apartment. Then we pulled out our homework and started working. Pretty soon it was late and we were tired so we called it a night.

That’s pretty much how most of our days go. We don’t get to spend much quality time together. We do get to see each other almost everyday, well, every night. We hang out and do homework, then go to sleep and wake up early to get ready for work and school. It seems that that’s the way Honors...
Egypt from 5...

“I was in the Learning Center and told one of my Coptic friends, Marina Gettas, that we should do something. At the same time, a member of Students for Justice in Palestine was in the Learning Center, and I told him that we should do an event for the protesters in Egypt. I told him to contact the Coptic Club, and he basically took it from there. At the event, there were members of the Muslim Student Association, Coptic Club, and Students for Justice in Palestine, as well as people like me, who aren’t affiliated with any of the organizations.”

“It is inspiring to see so much of UCR’s Egyptian population and so many others come together,” said Gettas. “Protests like these are mainly to raise awareness. Too many people aren’t aware of the intricacies of the situation in Egypt and it is our obligation to help the campus and society gain this knowledge.”

Kadri, however, did not say that the lack of knowledge was an issue with the current generation of students, saying that social networking sites and the Internet make a variety of sources and information easily available. He was instead critical of what he says is a lack of organization.

“The problem for me, which I have realized relatively recently is that people in our generation are really good at talking about issues, but were not very good at organizing,” said Kadri. “Day in and day out, I talk to many honors students who are interested in the issues America and the World are facing. We are really good at pointing out the problems but we’re not good at figuring out what to do.”

“There are so many problems, so much corruption within America, and it is on our generation to take our proper place within history, and take a stand. The world is what we make of it,” concluded Kadri.

University Take-Over - An Opinion by Maninder Gill

Many of you may have noticed the recent change on Canyon Crest Drive: the change from Summer Ridge to Oban, student housing. To many of us the change was surprising and also a bit confusing. Whose decision was it to spend university money on buying more housing instead of spending it on the needs of the students? Seeing the takeover was also frustrating considering that this means that the cost of living in the area will be spiking even further.

On the surface, it may seem that the university has good reason to buy out the local apartments. It is apparent that the number of students at UC Riverside is rapidly increasing year after year. The number of incoming first years has gone up by increments of thousands in just the past two years. In the past year alone, UCR went from a population of 17,000 students to 20,000. The increase includes transfer students but mostly consists of incoming first years. Although UCR is known for being a commuter school, most first years decide to live on-campus in the resident halls. Seemingly, the university needed to increase the number of available housing for students.

Upon closer examination, the takeover seems to be more geared towards monetarily profiting the institution.

Oban is campus apartments, an option that is usually considered after a student’s first year. Still, most students opt out of continuing to live on campus affiliated housing because it is much cheaper to live in private apartments.

Summer Ridge was a particularly popular option because of how close it is to campus, and...
Relationships from 6...

students tend to handle relationships. Asked about her own relationship, fellow Honors student Jamie Tremmel said she and her boyfriend “do homework together a lot”.

I personally always felt like the extra work that comes with being an Honors student took away from my relationship. Then I had a conversation with Jamie (in-between class and going to the Honors office, of course) and asked if she felt that same way. She didn’t. She said that any college student concerned with their GPA is going through the same thing. I suppose she’s right. We all have commitments; Honors demands no more of us than a job, responsibilities at home or any other commitment that we might run into as adults.

Let’s put this in perspective: As an honors student, one has some extra responsibilities that come neatly packaged as a “learning contact”. Those extra requirements take some extra time out of one’s schedule. Between the ten hours of community service, ten hours of personal growth, 1-hr module sessions and so on, one is looking at adding around 30 hours to one’s quarterly schedule. 30 hours over the course of ten weeks. You’re devoting about three extra hours per week to the learning contract. That’s not much.

When you consider that, it’s easier to look at things with a positive outlook. I thought my relationship suffered because of my extra commitments. When asked whether she feels like she is losing out on a normal relationship, Jamie said that she didn’t. That’s just relationships. Take them for what they are. If you weren’t giving three hours per week to Honors, you might be wasting it on something less productive and equally taxing on your relationship.

If you’re in a relationship, or considering one, don’t let your extra academic commitments scare you away from the idea. It’s not as bad as it might seem. Life won’t be any less busy after college, and relationships will certainly never be “easy”. Don’t let being an Honors student be a deterrent to your quest for romance.

An Interview with Best-selling Author, Andrew Winer
by Reissa Decena

In a small, windowless room buried somewhere in the depths of Sproul Hall, Professor Andrew Winer gestures animatedly to a group of honors students. The class is Creative Writing 97H. Style, structure, and, most importantly, subject matter are popular discussion topics for Professor Winer as he guides his students through a writer’s study of prose and poetry. In an interview with the Honors Newsletter, the novelist shares his motivations and observations on the career he has chosen.

1. How did your background play a role in the career you have today?

Having been an artist, and specifically a painter, prepared me for dedication and work required to be a novelist. Oil painting can require you to work for eight hours straight without stopping. That’s good practice for writing, which is certainly the hardest thing I’ve ever done. Intensive focus and concentration over many hours, day in and day out: this is how a novel gets written. A good one, at least.

2. Did you have a figure or role model that influenced you to take the path you have chosen?

Initially, it was Mark Twain and Charles Dickens. Twain for his analysis of America’s spiritual and social crises; Dickens for his sheer imagination and output. Both of them for their humor. More recently, I’m “in conversation” with novelists such as Henry James, J. M. Coetzee, Edith Wharton, Graham Greene, Milan Kundera, Philip Roth, Saul Bellow, W.G. Sebald, Dostoevsky, Martin Amis, and Shirley Hazzard, poets such as Czeslaw Milosz, Adam Zagajewski, and Joseph Brodsky, and thinkers from Simone Weil to Schopenhauer.

Cont. on 9...
3. As a professor for an honors class, what mindset do you have when entering the classroom? Is it any different than teaching a non-honors class?

I’m grateful every day when I enter a classroom filled with honors students, because I can count on a consistency of eagerness, intellectually-speaking. This allows me to run a classroom that resembles more of a graduate seminar.

4. When writing The Marriage Artist and The Color Midnight Made, what subjects did you consider? How might your themes translate into the daily life of a reader?

My first two novels have addressed many themes relevant to contemporary readers’ lives: family, race, divorce, social and political disenfranchisement, love, sexuality, religion, art, history, and many kinds of American textures. But most important, they are about the inner life—people’s desires, deepest longings and fears, and their questions about who they are and how to live.

5. Lastly, what advice would you give to the aspiring student writer trying to get started?

I’ll answer by quoting a letter of Henry James, written to a young aspiring writer who had sent him a few stories: “One must take the business [of writing] as serious as possible—but one’s success in it, not too much so. There is only one recipe—

to care a great deal for the cookery. If you do all you can for this story-telling mystery, it will do a good deal for you. Live your life as your life comes to you; but, for your work, remember that an art is an art and that you must learn it with every sort of help, with the aid of all the implements. Read—read—read much. Read everything. You will always observe and live and feel; but for God’s sake be as accomplished as you can. If you go in for literature be a man of letters. You have probably an heredity of expression in your blood, and I see symptoms in your stories of the sense and gift for that. So store up your patience. Take the most important subjects you can, write about the most human things. We live in a frightfully vulgar age; and twaddle and chatter are much imposed on us. Suspect them—detest them—despise them.”

Happy Spring, Everyone!