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This quarter, first-year honors students are experiencing an aspect of University Honors that all of us have gone through: HNPG009. The theme for this quarter is motivation—a topic that will allow students to analyze the different forms of motivation and how it impacts every conscious decision. So far, the class has gone over motivation in regards to incentives and consequences of actions; some people are motivated by outside sources such as prizes, while others are intrinsically motivated for some higher pursuit. Significant portions of the course’s readings are based on the book Drive by Daniel Pink. In the book, Pink describes how different kinds of motivation can be observed in areas such as the workplace; Drive shows how motivation in the workplace can affect the performance of employees and the quality of workmanship that is put into products. 

HNPG9 is really getting into the flow of things. What I like most about the class is that it is making me realize that if you don’t have the proper motivation now, then success is going to be an uphill battle and not as rewarding,” stated Jessica Soria.

HNPG 009 is taught by Honors’ own Dr. Thomas Perring. The general consensus among students is that Dr. Perring brings life to every lecture and ensures an environment where intellectual conversations are encouraged. “There is no better choice to teach HNPG 009 than Dr. Perring! He genuinely loves teaching the class and being part of Honors and you can see that by his involvement in students’ lives and by approachability,” stated Sergio Garcia.

Students are gaining an in-depth understanding about motivation at a critical juncture in their lives when every ounce of motivation counts. As HNPG 009 reveals, it is up to each student’s own motivation that will determine their long-term successes. As a community brought together by a shared pursuit of academic excellence and community involvement, University Honors is here to ensure that students are never lacking any motivation.

“Students are gaining an in-depth understanding about motivation at a critical juncture in their lives when every ounce of motivation counts.”

By Anissa Monteon

On May 5, UC Riverside’s Senryu Taiko (Japanese drum) band held their annual spring concert named, “The Oni and the Drum.” It tells the story of a demon, Hibiki, awakened by a local village festival. Angered by the loud noise, Hibiki comes up with a plot to rid the village of all Taiko. Each song shows the villagers’ various attempts to save Taiko from the evil plan of Hibiki. In the final song, Hibiki realizes that Taiko brings happiness to the village and decides to practice Taiko for the final ceremony.

Two Honors students performed in the concert: Jessica Baker, a first-year history and creative writing double major and Charlotte Kane, a first-year creative writing major. Both were new to Senryu Taiko this year but were thrilled about the opportunity to perform. “It was amazing to hear the audience laugh or gasp just because we struck a drum or acted out the skits. That made it worth it to perform in front of my friends, family, and Taiko community,” stated Baker. Kane shared similar thoughts about the experience, stating, “I couldn’t be happier. We worked hard and we adore Taiko. Both of these showed, and that was what I wanted more than anything.”

Baker encourages her peers, especially Honors students, to participate in tryouts for Senryu Taiko next year. “It’s worth it! We’re worth it! You’re worth it!” exclaimed Baker. Be sure to attend future Senryu Taiko shows for a night of epic music and story telling.

By Corinne Verghese

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This quarter saw the return of the University Honors Dodgeball Tournament. The action took place in the roller hockey rink outside of the Student Recreational Center, where five teams battled in front of a cheering crowd. A few teams had even donned uniforms—the most memorable being that of the Purple Cobras in their matching singlets. The five teams present were Los Búhos de Muerte, Team Dinos, Purple Cobras, Dream Team, and the Above Average Joes. Each team was given a chance to play two games for the initial round. At the end of these games, Purple Cobras went 2-0 while every other team went 1-1. A bracket was made for tied teams and excitement grew as Above Average Joes won a spot in the final showdown against the Purple Cobras. The game started with high tensions as everyone waited to see which sprinters would reach the balls first. Both sides fought as hard as they could but the Above Average Joes eventually triumphed using their superior ball-catching abilities. Outside of the competition, other teams had an equally fun night of embarrassing falls, misguided throws and plenty of laughs.

The final standings, beginning with the champions, were as follows: Above Average Joes, Purple Cobras, Dream Team, Los Búhos de Muerte, and Team Dinos. The event drew a remarkably high turnout among participants and spectators alike and will definitely be returning to meet popular demand. A big thank you goes out to all the teams, supporters and everyone who helped make this event successful. We hope to see everyone at the next dodgeball tournament!

By Aaron Toop

As a research university, UC Riverside places a heavy emphasis on promoting undergraduate students’ collaboration with faculty and involvement with research. The annual Undergraduate Research Symposium represents the cumulative efforts of these students and allows them to present the fruits of their labor. In its 6th year, the Undergraduate Research Symposium is a two-day event filled with over 100 oral and poster presentations by students. However, the entire experience isn’t limited to scientific research and other common notions of empirical research; presenters came from every college at UC Riverside and they discussed a variety of topics from literary analyses to art projects such as films and sculptures.

Every year at the symposium, spectators are bound to see many Honors students whether they are presenting their own work or volunteering to help run the event. Fourth-year biochemistry major and honors student Patra Sorod provided a presentation on her work in Dr. Friedman’s lab (Department of Psychology). When asked what advice she had for students, Sorod stated, “Go ahead and take the challenge because it will be filled with great experiences.” Echoing this sentiment was Kevin Harrison, fourth-year philosophy major, who stated, “The best part for me was the support and genuine interest people showed for the work I did. Having people show up just to listen to me talk is really a validating experience.” The symposium was undoubtedly an enriching experience that showcased the value of student research here and the strong commitment that Honors has in making it possible.

By Scott Manifold
The students and faculty of University Honors were delighted by the recent announcement of second-year student William Leon’s acceptance into the Amgen Scholars Program at Stanford University. The Amgen Scholars Program is a highly competitive, eight-week summer research program that pairs accepted students with a Stanford faculty member and lab mentor.

After the eight weeks, Leon and other students will have completed their own research project, improved their public speaking skills, gained valuable knowledge about applying to graduate schools and explored Stanford through field trips and socials. Leon first learned about the program from a fellow Honors student who encouraged Leon to apply. After learning more about the program, Leon became motivated to apply due to the prestigious nature of the program and the impact that it could have on his career goals.

Leon’s acceptance notification reinforced his beliefs in the value of hard work and illustrated that the competitive nature of a program should not deter would-be applicants. He noted that his priority during the summer research program is to gain “first-hand experience conducting research in the field of medicine.” Furthermore, he would like the chance to determine whether he would like to continue conducting research and pursue a Ph.D., or pursue a career as a physician. After completing his undergraduate degree at UC Riverside, Leon hopes to attend Stanford University for graduate or medical school.
Honors Profiles

STUDENT PROFILE: MICHELLE OKOREEIH

By Townsend Gallinger-Scholz

It was recently announced that the first-ever recipient of the Catharine Larsen Science Award, a special scholarship established after Chancellor White’s appearance on Undercover Boss last year, will be none other than University Honors’ own Michelle Okoreeh.

Okoreeh, a third-year biological sciences major, first became interested in applying for the prestigious award when she saw Chancellor White attend Professor Larsen’s Organic Chemistry lecture during the taping of the show. She comments, “I decided to apply because I shared similar sentiments as Dr. Larsen about the lack [of] female presence in science and wanted to use this award as a platform to sway women into science.”

The award, which is designed to encourage women’s participation in scientific research, will provide Okoreeh with the funds necessary to conduct her own research next year. The primary focus of Okoreeh’s work is gaining a better understanding of certain Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) analogs that could aid in the design of drugs for various serious illnesses like Alzheimer’s.

Okoreeh, who plans on pursuing a career in medical research after she graduates, says that the process of applying for and winning the award has been an invaluable learning experience. She also notes that it has given her a greater appreciation of the current place of women in scientific research, as well as how much work remains to be done. She stated, “I hope that by increasing female interest not just in science but also in academia, it speaks both to the importance of establishing this award and the benefit of having female presence in research as it could lead to more scientific discoveries in the future.”

ALUMNI PROFILE: CHUCK BENJAMIN

By Eric Gamboa

Benjamin (class of ’06) who has recently completed his dentistry degree from the University of Southern California. “During my time at UCR, I was heavily involved in the honors program via the peer mentor program, and can honestly say that was the best time of my educational career,” stated the former biology major in an interview with the Honors Outlook.

While University Honors has undergone significant changes since Benjamin’s time as an undergraduate student, the core elements of Honors have remained intact and the same message remains: always strive for excellence and take advantage of every opportunity that life presents. This mindset fueled Benjamin’s endeavors (both scholarly and in terms of community involvement) and helped him become the well-rounded leader that is characteristic of University Honors graduates.

“The multitude of community outreach opportunities helped to build character sought after by graduate schools. Small lectures, seminars, and discussions gave me the chance to interact directly with faculty, not only helping me with my own education, but allowing me [to obtain] letters of recommendation,” stated Benjamin, who is now looking forward to the next step in his career—which he has narrowed down to either pursuing his own dentistry practice or going into teaching.

Benjamin offered advice to students seeking admittance into graduate school, emphasizing the importance of researching information about graduate programs in order to determine the most suitable choice. “Second, try and be as well rounded as possible. Do not be afraid to show off your hobbies, talents, and community service when applying; schools really like to see this.

Lastly and most important, when you are in graduate school have fun in your program! Enjoy what you study and you will do well!” concluded Benjamin.
Honors Announcements

DR. PARKER’S WEEKLY DINNERS AND LATE NIGHT OFFICE HOURS

By Alice Deng

Have you ever wanted to have an interesting conversation with Honors faculty members? Do you have some free time on Tuesday or Wednesday nights? Then you should definitely come visit Sociology Professor Robert Nash Parker, who hosts weekly meetings in Pentland C-104 and dinners at the Aberdeen-Inverness dining hall. This is an excellent opportunity for Honors students and any guests they bring to speak with a renowned professor whose areas of expertise include the alcohol/violence relationship, gang violence and law enforcement. If the prospect of speaking with one of the nation’s most well-known sociologist is a bit daunting, then perhaps the free pizza (provided on Tuesday nights) may entice you further. Also, it’s generally always a good idea to meet faculty members—after all, Dr. Parker just might just be the one helping you on your senior thesis.

Dr. Parker’s dinners always include a diverse group of students who talk about anything from the weather to random ideas and stories. Dr. Parker has an interest in sci-fi (specifically, Doctor Who), knows his history well and is a very approachable person. Aside from having the opportunity to converse with Dr. Parker, dinner and pizza nights are also terrific opportunities to meet your fellow Honors peers. His meetings are very relaxed and many times, honors students end up playing games like Apples to Apples to pass the time.

For those interested, the Wednesday meetings at the Aberdeen-Inverness Dining Hall take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pizza night at Pentland occurs every Tuesday from 10:15 p.m. to midnight.

Honors Entertainment

CTS Riddle!

LAST ISSUE’S RIDDLE:

An old man wanted to leave all of his money to one of his three sons, but he didn’t know which one he should give it to. He gave each of them a few coins and told them to buy something that would be able to fill their living room. The first man bought straw, but there was not enough to fill the room. The second bought some sticks, but they still did not fill the room. The third man bought two things that filled the room, so he obtained his father’s fortune. What were the two things that the man bought?

WINNERS:

“He bought some bacteria and let them multiply and then bought oatmeal as food.”
- Erin Simpson

“A super condensed canister of air, and a spiffy top hat.”
- Brittany Morello

THIS ISSUE’S RIDDLE:

The cost of making only the maker knows; valueless if bought but sometimes traded.
A poor man may give one as easily as a king. When one is broken, pain and deceit are assured. What am I?

NOTE: The winner will not necessarily be the one who gets the “correct” answer. Instead, the winning entry will be the one voted most creative/funny by the MCC members.

Submit your entry (don’t forget to include your name!) to the “CTS” box in the Honors lounge.

E-mail & Online Tips by Eric Gamboa

1. Create labels (similar to document folders) to organize your emails. One of the default R’Mail labels is for “priority” emails. You can take a step further by adding more labels—ones for Honors-related emails, correspondence with faculty, etc.

2. Become acquainted with Google Docs! Google Docs allows for real-time updates to be made on shared documents and is great for group projects. You can keep track of edits, make comments and chat with other people viewing your document.

3. Use your Google Calendar to keep track of meetings, midterms and other important events. You can set up reminders (from 10 minutes to numerous weeks in advance), color-coordinate your events and share your calendar with others.