Honors Program Newsletter

With Honors

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Former Honors Student Wins CSUF Scholarship

AmyAnne Duncan joined the Honors Program during her first semester at Cypress College. She was an excellent student who passionately pursued her major of technical theater. She could always be found in the theater. If she wasn’t performing she was working behind the scenes or assisting the instructors. She transferred into California State University, Fullerton’s prestigious theater program and was admitted with honors. Duncan is graduating in June and has been invited to join the CSUF Master of Fine Arts in Theater Arts Program. She has received a full scholarship plus an assistantship. This is the first time Fullerton has ever made an offer to a student who had not yet applied for the program and the first time they will fully fund a graduate education.

While at Cypress she also became a student hourly working in the Honors Office where she had become a valued employee. In recent years she has edited the newsletter, used her technical theater background volunteering for the Honors Program A Night of Music fundraisers, and managed the Honors Program database. Her presence will be missed next year but we wish her well in her new endeavors and as an example for future students to fol-

The 9th Annual Student Research Conference

By Tracy Hua

On Saturday, February 28, 2009 a select group of Community College Honors Students from Southern California gathered to present and observe independent research done by their peers. This year’s Student Research Conference was presented by the Honors Transfer Council of California and hosted by the University of California, Irvine. This conference is a great opportunity for honors students to challenge themselves by conducting independent research and presenting it to be admired, and critiqued their colleagues.

The topics researched ranged widely from anthropology to theatre and everything in between. Cypress College had two students with presentations: Julie Van presented Role of Auxin and Cytokinin in Controlling Apical Dominance of the Common Garden Bean, Phaseolus Vulgaris and Catherine Carothers who presented Blazing New Traits in Hamster Genetics. Each presentation that day was approximately 30 minutes in length followed by a question and answer session. This is a great opportunity to prepare us for transfer and graduate school.
UC Irvine Says “We Guarantee You!”
By Nikki Li

UC Irvine is a sweet school. It offers an amazing chance for transfer students in community colleges who are in the Honors Program. For 2008-2009, UC Irvine began a pilot program to guarantee admission to Honors students. “THE Guarantee” is a program which offers guaranteed admission to students from participating community college Honors Programs. Although it does not guarantee every single major, it does guarantee most majors there.

In Orange County, there are only six community colleges that are participating in the pilot program with UCI. Cypress College is one of them. According to the data we have now, there are more than 5 people who already got acceptations from UC Irvine with scholarships and housing guarantees. This sounds really surprising. The scholarship packet is really good!!! Before other UC schools send out their letters, those people already felt relaxed. The acceptations from UC Irvine also means that students have more options.

In order to get into THE Guarantee Program, students need to be in the Honors Program in their community colleges. After they become members of the Honors Program, they have to maintain at least 3.5 GPA. Meanwhile, students should complete 60 transferable semester units or 90 quarter units by the end of the quarter prior to enrolling at UC Irvine. Students need to have 2/3 of the required major prerequisites completed. Other requirements include having one transferable English composition course and one transferable mathematics course completed. The second transferable English composition course must be completed no later than the end of semester before transfer.

There are several majors that are excluded from this program. Arts and Humanities, Dance, Humanities and Arts, Humanities (Interdisciplinary), Music, Nursing Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Business Administration in UC Irvine are the majors that do not accept this program. Of course, no matter whether these majors honor THE Guarantee program or not, the Honors Program is a way of showing how well qualified a student is.

Completing the Honors Program is a good way for students to prepare to transfer to competitive schools. Especially, THE Guarantee Program offers a great opportunity for students who are interested going to UCI. UC Irvine

Honors Online Class Experience
By Sasha Ross

The online class experience is a very different, yet motivating and independent experience from a normal classroom experience. The factor that makes these two different types of classroom experiences so different is the environment. Although online classes don’t necessarily have the environment of a normal class setting with a room filled with students and a professor, online classes can be a very motivating experience for students. They are given more independence and flexibility with time in an online class. Online classes do not require the student to attend a class at a definite time. You are given a specific day and time to turn in your assignment, which allows the student to have a lot more flexibility with their time. If you’re a very busy student with not a lot of time on your hands, an online class is a very reliable and convenient option.

With the access and convenience of the internet, there is a discussion board and email for you, your fellow classmates, and professor to keep in touch. You can ask questions, discuss something, or just form friendships from these reliable sources of communication. A reason online classes are motivational experience is because it requires the student to step up and take full responsibility for themselves. It can be pretty challenging because you don’t physically have your professor or classmates next to you to receive immediate responses when you are in need of help or support. Since there is a lack of physical presence of others in an online class, it encourages the student to step up and initiate contact with others in order to take full responsibility whenever they need help. Basically, what it comes down to is you can’t depend on others to initiate contact with you when you are in an online class. Online classes are a positive experience because they allow a student to grow into a independent individual who manages time well.
Review of The Magic Flute
By Lawrence C. Dimayuga

The Magic Flute or Die Zauberflöte in its original German title, is an opera written by the great Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) in 1791. Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812), Mozart’s companion and also Freemason, himself, was credited for completing the libretto. Unfortunately, this opera was Mozart’s last as he passed away two months after its premiere. Although I was not able to witness the auspicious moment when The Magic Flute gave its debut on September 30, 1791, I was able to see a magnificent present performance with my Honors classmates in the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, March 29, 2009.

The Magic Flute is a marvelous story that basically falls into the category of a rescue mission. Although all five of the actors gave commendable performances, the one that truly stood out was Pampageno played by David Stoneman. Overall, the actors were marvelous but it was not just them who receive the credit; the conductor and the orchestra also delivered a refreshing performance full of enjoyment. The conductor for the Cerritos Center for the Performing Art’s showing of The Magic Flute was Maxim Eshkenazy and I thought he had a fantastic role as both conductor and an actor simultaneously. I appreciated how he was able to establish a relationship with the audience by including lessons in the world of opera which was truly a dandy especially for the many children in attendance. Moreover, the method was a definite first for me watch, but very well thought-out giving consideration to the audience that substantiate continued interest in the entire show. With that being said, the orchestra by the Pacific Symphony was an added bonus because they provided magnificent foundation with their instrumentation. Oddly enough, I constantly found myself swaying my head in tone with the music to the sounds of the violins and flutes, the conductor’s wobbling of his baton, along with my amazement with the actors’ singing. The Honors Program offers unique

Barber of Seville - A Night to Remember at the Opera
By Jina Yang and Wei-Sheng Peng

On October 22 and 30, 2008 students from Music 118HC, Honors Introduction to Opera, an online class, went to see The Barber of Seville at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa. It was a night to remember from great composer Gioacchino Rossini. Professor Helena Decoro, stated her goal for introducing this opera as a way, “to introduce students to the Orange County Performing Arts Center and Opera Pacific. Orange County is one of the most beautiful parts of the world and Opera Pacific is our resident opera company. The arts bring beauty and richness to life and everyone is welcome. I encourage students to explore the drama, the music and the history and to forget about stereotypes of opera. Surtitles, which are translations above the proscenium, help the new students follow the text just like subtitles in a foreign film. If I can get students into the opera house for the first time to experience the excitement, I believe I can help create a whole new generation of opera buffs.”

Students read the opera, took quizzes, and watched video clips of the opera, but to truly experience the opera, they need to see it live on stage. What Professor Decoro wanted for the students made me truly appreciate the Fine Arts. Because of this experience I bought two tickets to see Aida.
Honors Theme Seminar: Student and Community Enrichment  
By Taylor Wasko

The Honors Theme Seminar course (INDS 120HC) is designed to help students in the Honors Program explore the possibilities and capabilities of their individual intellect, get involved in student government, write for the campus newspaper and enrich their understanding about serving the community. Service learning is used as a tool to help students volunteer in their community while gaining knowledge that will help them in their future. Students learn the value of helping their community, and their school, and it can help them prosper in their ambitions for the future.

The Honors class affects the students and the teachers in many ways. Kathryn Sonne, the instructor of this course feels that “the purpose of this class is to initiate students into campus life. It introduces opportunities that enhance students transferability to the university of their choice.” She hopes to teach her students everything they need to go where they want to go. Also, that this class will help her students reach their goals in continuing their education, positively influencing the world around them. A Student in the honors class, Tracy Hua, feels that “This class is really interesting. We learn the basics of Service Learning And we made a Service Learning info page on Facebook, which is pretty cool”.

Honors Club Experience at Getty Villa  
By Fiorella Torrico and Ruth Obidah

On Saturday, March 29, the honors students drove all the way to Malibu to do what they do best, expand their knowledge about life in the Getty Villa. The event was organized by Professor Kathryn Sonne and the club president, Jose Gonzalez. There were at about sixteen students in attendance at the event. The Villa was originally purchased by J. Paul Getty in 1945. The museum recreates a first-century Roman country house, and it was opened to the public in 1974. The Getty Villa is an educational center and museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome and Etrusca.

According to club programmer, Ken Vialva, the purpose for the trip was “to learn more about Greek and Roman culture”. Fortunately this goal was accomplished with all the students having fun as they learned about the works and values of some of the ancient civilizations that have served through the course of history as the building blocks of current civilization. Students were excited about various aspects of the Getty Villa. “I love the statues, I love the perfect form of a human body, although I like the archetype of the male especially” said Jason Khieu when asked what interested him most in the museum. Some were more appreciative of the history of the Villa and its scenery. Although everyone had diverse areas of interest, one element at the Villa that captivated all was the displays showing ancient heroes like Heracles, Zeus and Orpheus. Everyone seemed to have kindled interest in these topics. They sought to inquire more about the stories of these immortalized figures. According to Jason “This was the most interesting part of the trip. Seeing Heracles and the others; I am just all into mythology, I love it.”
Spotlight on an Honors Student: Jose Gonzalez

Why did you come to Cypress, and what do you plan on studying or doing in the future?
I am a Philosophy major with minors in English and History. I've always had a big passion for philosophy as well as writing and plan to use that in the future for a number of projects. As I move on from Cypress I plan on attending Graduate school and pursuing a Doctorate degree in Philosophy with the hopes of someday teaching at the university level. The reason I came to Cypress was very simple - it was convenient and I knew the parking situation was much more accommodating than Fullerton's. Little did I know that the school was about to begin remodeling! But this is a small price to pay compared to the great progress the school is making. The campus looks great!

Why did you choose to become President of the Honors club?
My decision to become President was not something I planned. I tend to be a very involved person wherever I go and Honors was not an exception; I just like to help. I didn't really get involved my first semester, then my second I decided to help out Raciel since I knew there was work to be done. During this time, I had recently been very involved in a church and I had the opportunity to participate in leadership positions. I was ready to practice and apply what I had learned, and as the end of the school year drew closer I found the opportunity and the desire to step up and do just that. I ran for and was voted in as President.

What motivates you to do your job well?
Motivation for me comes from a strong desire to be helpful. As a matter of fact, my reasoning behind getting involved was that I felt I had a significant amount of experience and knowledge that I could contribute to the club and so I opted to do so. Every day I think about how I can help the club be more beneficial to its constituents and how we can help each other progress. Additionally, I want to make our time spent at Cypress as memorable as possible. I don't think its enough that we remain just another club.

In your opinion why should anyone join honors and what does it have to offer?
At face value, I think that the Honors Club is simply a smart move for anyone interested in accentuating college success. What happens is that in joining the program, and consequently the club, is that one is immediately included into a community of students who are talented, intelligent, hard-working, and motivated. It does not take a genius to be admitted into the Honors Program, but I would consider him/her one for doing so. An old adage says (and I paraphrase) that “You are the company that you keep.” We at Honors just want to be successful and move on to continue do so wherever we go. I think it an obvious fact that membership in the Honors Program is not necessary for success, but it certainly helps.

Seminar-style classes and priority consideration into a number of great 4-year universities can also be very attractive to most students. We have a greater desire to interact with our professors and our classmates about the material being learned, which then allows us to place it into context and apply it wherever possible. In the end, we then have priority consideration to some awesome schools for doing so--its win-win if you ask me. In addition to all of these benefits, we get the chance to have some fun with those that we work so hard with and stress out within our academic trenches during the course of the semester. Honors Club is simply great on many levels.

Any advice for those new to the club or campus?
My advice to anyone new to the campus is always the same: get involved and make the best of wherever you are and whatever you are doing, it ALWAYS pays off either in the short or the long run. I would encourage all students who are nervous about joining the program or getting involved with the club to come talk to me, perhaps I can help with the decision to take this big step. You can come to one of our club meetings, stop by the Student Activities Center (where I'm usually found), or contact me at jcgonzalez@cypresscollege.edu. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.
Honors Club up for Club of the Year!
By Felisha Corona and Tasbeeh Herwees

From trips to the Bower’s Museum and the Getty Villa to hosting a luncheon for representatives from UCLA, the Honors Club has had a busy year. The busiest, in fact, of all clubs: Honors Club has had more events this year than any other club, which is why its being considered for this year’s Club of the Year Award.

Much of the success of Honors Club is attributed to the leadership. This year’s president, Jose Gonzales, has dedicated himself to making Honors Club a community, rather than just another extracurricular activity. “My goal was to build a community and have a much more active club where students could motivation and build lasting friendships,” said Gonzales, “I wanted to have a large number of activities to give students the opportunity to get involved in spite of the customary busy schedules in college.”

Activities like the Ice Skating Night and Ice Cream Social helped group members learn more about each other and foster relationships with other students that would go beyond the meeting rooms. The Honors Club - AGS softball game helped members break out of their social groups and meet people from outside of the club. “Putting together these activities takes tremendous dedication on the part of club leaders,” says Vice-president Danny Kovell.

“The officers and club members alike have put out such a great effort and sacrifice,” said Kovell, “and I believe they truly deserve the honor of [receiving] the Club of the Year [award].”
A Math Song

Dearest Mathematics,
Whoever could have guessed?
Who on the face of earth could have known that I
would have fallen for you?
Yet I did
Yes I did fall in love despite 6,579 days
This translates into 157,896 hours,
Which is 947,360 minutes,
And it’s approximately 568425600 seconds,
Of your scornful treatment, as I tried to woo you.
However, a few days of your roller coaster emotions
That allowed me a glimpse of your sweetness bought
me over.
Nonetheless, your inconsistency and the hideous
trails of memory you’ve left behind
Makes my love
Although I crave more of you, yet I desire none
On one side I yearn to write an ode to your glory
But on the other a couplet above a sonnet is enough.

Ruth Obidah

Dream Quest

From the day my eyes to the world opened,
Passed the days my first steps I walked,
And through my years of being schooled
I am still on this same journey.

My intellect has become a good thinker,
My imagination has developed into a great explorer,
And my psyche a poor, lonesome wanderer
Still on this same journey.

Here I sit writing this piece,
My thoughts on course, never at peace,
My mind fully sentient, never at ease
I am still on this same journey.

I try hard to peer into my future,
But all I see is an intricate mosaic picture,
With a rather mystifying structure
Still on this same journey.

Though my vision be unclear,
And my fretfulness flare,
And my contemplations of failure scare.
I am still on this same journey.

I must explore the vast waters of my talents and the
tiny,
I must glide in the winds of destiny,
Till I reach the tree of fate—till then only
I am still on this same journey.

I will tread the ground of the serpent.
I will walk till I am spent,
Because for my dream I am bent
Still on this same journey.

Ruth Obidah

“How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait
a single moment before starting to improve the
world.” - Anne Frank

“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a
refuge in adversity.” Aristotle

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the
lighting of a fire.” William Butler Yeats

“When you cease to make a contribution, you
begin to die.” Eleanor Roosevelt

“There is a difference between pure service and
paid employment, and it is located in the
heart!” Anonymous
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