“Donate a Day” of Service
By Eun Sil (Christine) Park

On Wednesday October 5th, 2011, Cypress College Honors Program hosted an informative event titled “Donate a Day of Service” in collaboration with Cypress Associated Students (AS). The event took place on campus between the Fine Arts and Cypress College Complex buildings. The primary aim of this Honors event was to introduce students to various volunteer opportunities both on and off campus, as a way of giving back to the community and the environment. "We want our students to be aware of different volunteer activities available," stated Professor Kathryn Sonne, the director of the Honors Program at Cypress. Representatives from various non-profit organizations and volunteering students from the Honors Program and AS were stationed at each of the booths to welcome visiting students and to inform them of different ways they can volunteer service. The booths included Give Children Hope, Breast Cancer Awareness, Campus Beautification, Boys and Girls Club, OC Food Bank, Voter Registration, Letters to the Military, Tiger Woods Learning Center, Soles for Souls, Bracelet Fundraiser, Chalk Talk, and Blood Drive. Jung Park, an Honors student stationed at the Campus Beautification booth, commented that he was glad to see many students come by and sign up to volunteer for campus beautification activities. Despite the unusually, rainy weather, many students participated in the event. A ticket was given to those participants at each station, and free pizza was offered for students with two or more tickets. Young Yoon, a computer science major who was visiting this event, said, "I am very glad that I was able to participate in this event. It was very useful to learn about all the volunteer opportunities. My favorite part was the free pizza!"
Let’s Make A Deal
By Josue Castaneda & Patrick Pasalo

On November 4th 2011 the Honors club attended a taping of the game show Let’s Make A Deal. The game show gave the club ten dollars per member that attended the show, so needless to say it was a great fundraiser. This was a refreshing and exciting way of collecting funds for the club. Also, members had a great time socializing with their fellow club members. Personally, I got to spend time with two students that I had not known before and we all had a great time. The taping itself was filled with exciting music and enthusiastic people. The host, Wayne Brady, was extremely funny when he performed improvised songs and joked with the audience. Some of our Honors club members were even fortunate enough to sit near Wayne Brady, giving them more face time on television. Dominique Mashburn, Honors Club president, stated that “this fundraiser was a success because we ended up raising a lot of money for the club itself and more importantly those who participated in the event enjoyed themselves thoroughly.” Great ideas like this fundraiser help members of the club not only enjoy participating in club events but also give them the opportunity to become acquainted with fellow members. When asked if another fundraiser similar to this one was possible, Dominique Mashburn answered, “I would try another fundraiser like this again because we had amazing results with this one.” This fundraiser was a success for the club and a great time for all those that attended.

Killing Two Birds with One Stone
By Cindy Hwang and Mina Yoon

The Shakey’s Pizza Parlor fundraising event that took place on November 17, 2011 from 5 to 9 p.m. was an event that brought all the honors club members together to raise funds and bond as a club.

Many club members came to enjoy a pan of the famous Shakey’s pizza and delicious chicken wings. They brought along friends and families to help the club raise as much money as possible. When I arrived, there were already many honors club members waiting in line to order their share of yummy Shakey’s food and many were already eating at tables, chatting and laughing with each other. It was a great turnout overall.

Shakey’s gave the Cypress Honors Club 25% of the sales they make from orders that came with the special honors club flyer for the event. Cypress Honors Club was able to make $208.00 in total.

The Shakey’s fundraiser was a success for the Cypress Honors Club and overall a good time for everyone to bond and get to know each other better.
College professors only like to give out homework, hard tests, and well more homework right? Many college students seem to think that college professors have no lives outside of the classroom and that their only mission semester to semester is to stomp on our heads while we try to climb the academic mountain to success. Well English professor, Mary Forman is breaking all stereotypes. Her call to nature and willingness to help people out has embarked her into the “Topsail Youth Program” which helps young teenagers build teamwork and charisma. With the duty of University Transfer Achievement Program (UTAP) Director, and English professor how and why does Mary Forman volunteer in this program?

Q- How Did you first get involved with the “Topsail Youth Program”?

Mary: “I was tide pooling down in Palos Verde where I casually met a guy who introduced me into the program.”

Q- What qualities about the ‘Topsail Youth Program” attracted you to it?

Mary: I’ve been sailing since I was 15 years old and have always wanted to sail on a Tallship. (A Tall ship is a large, traditionally-rigged sailing vessel, with historical background that dates back to the early 19th and 20th centuries) Also the aspect that Topsail Youth Program invites young children to get involved with the ocean and nature as a whole attracted me even more to this program.

Q- The programs motto is “We use the sea to educate the youth for life” how have you seen this motto take shape?

Mary: The program educates these children for life by: first teaching them about team building because a Tallship cannot be manned by one person alone. The teamwork is then built by creating an environment where the volunteers, who are usually within the range of 20-30, are required to work with the young children, thus creating a multi-age learning and team building environment. Secondly, I believe the program challenges these young children because it allows them to work on any aspect of the boat from controlling the tallship itself to allowing them to climb all the way up to the rigging, which takes a lot to overcome the fear of height.

Q- What do you come away with at the end of the day?

Mary: A suntan, while I’m able to share a long lifetime hobby which is wonderful and I am able to meet really interesting people which vary from National Geographic photographers to airplane pilots.

Q- How can people learn about the website?

Mary: The website, http://www.lamitopsail.org/

Mary Foreman sends many UTAP students to the Honors Program and will be directing a Study Abroad Program spring semester 2013 in Rome, Italy. Honors courses will be offered.
On Friday December 1, 2011 the honors students in Mrs. Castle’s Honors Geology 101 class met at Dana Point Harbor for a class field trip. The trip was full of interesting sites and stories on the harbor’s background. The first stop was a bed of sedimentary rocks where we talked about their physical properties. We learned that this particular bed of rocks was poorly sorted, meaning that the sediment sizes were both large and small. It was the perfect time of day to venture out on the beach because the tide was neither too low nor too high so we headed there next. As we walked along the beach we took in the scenery and looked at some of the animals that lived on the rocks. There were sea creatures such as sea anemones, sea urchins, and echinoderms. In addition to learning about different types of rocks and sea animals, we talked about landslides. A lot of homes in Dana Point are built on top of cliffs that are often victims of landslides. Overall, it was a fun field trip filled with a lot of informative information. It was a good way to see examples of what we learned in class, in person. This is a great benefit of being in an Honors course!

Discovery Science Center Field Trip

On April 13th 2012 The Honors Club went on a field trip with Professor Sonne to experience the Discovery Science Center. We had planned this event a few months in advanced and we were very excited to bond and have fun, while learning. We arrived early to an extremely crowded wait in the pouring rain, but the trip was worth it. Honors club members excitedly burst through the doors to avoid the rain and to check out all the cool things being shown at the museum. Many of us bonded over a team work activity that was featured at the museum to create variations of different objects on the screen. Not only did we have the opportunity to experience the stationary exhibits always offered at the Science Center, but we got to visit Dora played by an A.S. friend and catch the last weekend of the Star Wars exhibit. After a group picture with Dora we gathered to check out the Star Wars exhibit which featured technology, props, and customs actually featured in Stars Wars! Honors club members then explored the rest of the museum such has standing in the tube the stimulated wind or the elevator that stimulated an earthquake and learned about other great science experiments. It was a day full of fun, learning and bonding.
On a chilly Friday morning the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) hosted a conference with the UCLA Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (UARS). This event took place on the sprawling 419 acres campus of University of California, Los Angeles, in which I along with many Honors students was able to tour. The 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m conference included workshops that went over: preparation requirements in order to transfer to the university, the transfer application and selection process, research opportunities offered at UCLA, the Honors Program provided at UCLA, and much more.

After checking in at Ackerman Union, the Information Fair began in the building’s Grand ballroom. Ben Kwak, an administrator of the Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with School, provided tips on completing the UC applications and addressed the universities admissions requirements. After the Welcome there were various morning workshops offered. One that I attended was the College Honors: Options for Transfer Students. Beverly V. Yanuaria who is the Student Affairs Advisor as well as the Phi Beta Kappa Coordinator held this workshop. Yanuaria went over the requirements and benefits for being in the Honors Program. To qualify to for UCLA’s Honors Program you not only have to submit an online application, but also gain at least a 3.75 cumulative transfer GPA. Benefits of the Honors Program include: academic counseling and services, special transcript notations, special events, special library privileges, scholarships and awards. Most exciting of all is the recognition at graduation and “College Honors” notation on your diploma. There is also a formal event held for all graduating honors student before the actual graduation ceremony. The Honors Program at Cypress College is a great way to transition into this program.
Waking up early in the morning and beating traffic to our destination, we finally got to enter UCI’s Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) Conference. My friends and I, all honors students, have never attended any TAP conferences before, so it was very exciting for all of us. UCI is a prestigious university in California.

The Registered Nursing presentation was the bomb, and I took all the pictures of this presentation for myself. I was glad to hear that most of their students pass to graduate with Bachelor’s in Nursing; however, it worries me that they only half of the students in their Nursing program are transfer students while other half are from UCI. I have to get a good GPA with ample amount of extra curricular activity and letters of recognition. The question and answer provided to be useful, with another student who shared same major and minor as I did. The presenter recommended that we focus on our Major first, and that medical schools only accept students that finished their prerequisites. Sadly, our conference was over, now began the campus tour.

Overall, I disliked leaving the campus, as it was beautiful as it was effective on guiding our future. The Transfer Alliance Program was very informative with kind and familiarized representatives. Their resources are fantastic and I used them to set up my goals for my future. I would not mind waking up early in the morning and trying to beat traffic any day for another day in UCI.

In a conference room on Cypress’s Main Campus, students were invited to attend an intellectual gathering with a discussion focus on the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, written by Rebecca Skloot. The discussion was lead by Professor Kathryn Sonne and Professor Penny Gabourie, along with Cypress’s very own President, Dr. Michael Kasler. An engaging discussion over bioethics, racial issues and medical advancements occurred within the round table setting. Students were able to freely speak, engaging each other with their differing opinions and personal testimonies. As an attendee, it was fun to experience the cerebral give-and-take of the discussion, along with being able to engage the President in a casual academic setting and put a face to the name. Hopefully the Book Club will continue to be an enjoyable activity for students, who will be able to continue the club’s tradition of cultivating students’ creativity and interaction. Upon Dr. Kasler’s well-deserved retirement, students also hope the next President will be as willing to engage students on a similar personal level.
This year the 17th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books kicked off at USC as a two-day event on April 21 and 22. The L.A. Times reports that more than 100,000 people showed up for this event, a dramatic increase in attendance compared to previous years. Cypress College students were also eager to attend this event, particularly Professor Sonne’s English 104 Honors class. Los Angeles, and many of its issues dealing with culture, race, food, and history, was the focus of our class this semester. Therefore, actually visiting the city and attending an event that touched up on many of these topics and themes made for a great learning experience.

Many famous authors participated in panel discussions and book signings, including Steve Lopez and Gustavo Arellano, both authors of novels we have read in class. Steve Lopez was the moderator for a panel discussion on the subject of death. He, along with healthcare panelists, emphasized the importance of advanced healthcare directives. The doctors argued that providing patients with the option of “aided dying” makes them feel “empowered and in control,” which gives them comfort at a time when it is most needed. Author, Denise Hamilton, during a panel discussion described her relationship with the city, “L.A. is the place that I love and hate…it’s a dark muse that keeps me interested in writing crime fiction,” she stated.

Aside from the panel discussions, the festival offered live entertainment, food, beverages, merchandise, and other author events. When asked about her favorite event, Cypress College Honors student, Hannan Yosof, replied, “It would definitely have to be the Ballet Folklorico and mariachi players…it’s one thing learning about the Mexican culture in English class but seeing it live made me appreciate and respect it so much more.”

There is no doubt that the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books was a huge success this year. The event provided Cypress College Honors students with a fun, yet very educational learning experience. Keeping in mind that there is something out there for every book lover and even non-book lovers to enjoy, this is something to certainly look forward to next year.
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