

**Golden Key
Honour
Society**

UNLOCKED

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UCR Golden Key Literacy Projects

By Danielle Pearson

Golden Key International Honors Society is an organization committed to serving the community. Programs encouraging literacy have been of particular interest to chapters of Golden Key since the 2006 Conference when the society embraced literacy as the target service project for the year. In support of this mission, the UCR chapter of Golden Key has two projects in the works that promote literacy in our community.

The first project was the Better World Books Campaign held on campus during finals week of last quarter. UCR Golden Key collaborated with Better World Books, a company that collects and sells books for the benefit of four highly regarded literacy-focused non-profits that serve communities around the world. Golden Key hosted a book drive accepting qualifying textbooks that were donated to Better World Books and sold at good prices to college students. A portion of the profits goes to the National Center for Family Literacy. UCR student and Golden Key officer, Joey Pradetto, organized the book drive and collected a total of 11 boxes of textbooks from receptacles in the libraries, the dorms, commons, and in front of the bookstore. Special thanks to those who gave their time and books to help others in need. For more information on the Better World Books program visit <http://betterworldbooks.com/>

The second project to promote local literacy teams up UCR Golden Key volunteers with children who reside in the Foothill Family Shelter in Upland. The shelter is operated by a non-profit organization that has provided housing for homeless families with children since 1984. The shelter offers free housing to these families in need for up to three months, with options for longer-term transitional and permanent housing.

Volunteers will read to children from grades K-12 residing in the shelter in both one-on-one and group settings. All volunteers must be at least 15 years old, and volunteers under the age of 18 need to have parental consent. Readings will take place on weekdays from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the shelter. Our GK board members have been hard at work coordinating with the shelter and are ready to start accepting applications and organizing readings with the shelter. All Golden Key members are strongly encouraged to join in and help give these kids who are going through a rough time a friend, an afternoon of entertainment, and the educational opportunities they deserve.

Your chapter needs your help! Find out how you can get involved in the Foothill Family Shelter Reading project by sending an email to us at the address below: goldenkeyatucr@gmail.com.



Golden Key International Honour Society, founded on 29 November 1977, is the world's premier collegiate honor society, recognizing outstanding academic achievement and connecting high-achieving individuals locally, regionally & globally with lifetime opportunity, reward & success. Membership is by invitation only.



In the Seat with the Driving Force

Interview with UCR Golden Key Leaders

GK Unlocked Reporter Carrie Pi takes us behind the scenes in an exclusive interview with UCR Golden Key President, Jennifer Tran, and Vice President, Grace Cheng. These two leaders stepped up to the plate when the UCR chapter was dying and turned it into the rising star it is today. Read about the lives of these inspiring seniors and learn how you can fill their shoes!

GK Unlocked: What inspired you to run for a position in the first place?

Jennifer: I was going to the meetings and there wasn't a great turnout. I wanted to make something out of the organization with its potential to network.

Grace: Heidi, the regional director, told us a lot about opportunities on being officers. It is great leadership opportunity. It's our chance to promote what Golden Key is since we're part of it already. We get to build it from the ground up.

Jennifer: In Golden Key, we have standings: bronze, silver, and gold. Before last year, for a while, we were not in good standing. Last year we were bronze, and we are aiming for silver. There is better turnout this year. I guess we are doing something right.

GKU: Did you expect to be in the position you are in now?

Jennifer: I didn't come in expecting a position. I just wanted to see what was being offered. We just kind of met Heidi. Next thing I knew, I was going for the presidency. It's been a great opportunity to make friends with people and get our members more involved. It's not necessarily that they are not motivated; they just don't know what's being offered.

Grace: Last year, I wanted to do treasurer because I was a business major. I had that background. This year, I thought maybe I would step up and see what else I can do. It's a good stepping-stone.

GKU: Have you had any other experiences in leadership prior to GK?

Jennifer: I was the Vice President of Marketing in Alpha Lambda Delta.

Grace: ASUCR, Committee Member.

GKU: What has been the most challenging obstacle during your term?

Jennifer: The most challenging is getting membership participation. All of last year was getting fliers up and the mass email. It seems like a lot of our stuffs were futile. But in the end, it just came together and we had a great turnout. Events were difficult to plan and get through. But nothing was as hard as getting people to come.

Grace: It was a rough start. But we are getting there.

GKU: What has been the most rewarding experience?

Jennifer: I think the most rewarding for me is that there were so many people to help me. I have a support system; I know this amount of people is actually going to show up versus going alone by myself trying to get random people to come with. It is the most rewarding when we get something done for the community.

Grace: Meeting all the people that are in here. Those who want to become officers. Getting to see what kind of people we have in our organization. It's always fun. Getting to plan events. Having an organization that will follow through.

GKU: Any funny/silly incidents you want to share?

Jennifer: "The Secretary Curse". We have a lot of people who signed up for secretary but didn't do the job.

Grace: The pizza social. We had one person showed up who wasn't even a member. He stayed and talked with us through the whole social.

Jennifer: Last year for the induction ceremony, it was practically just Grace and I there. We had this elegant plan at the Barn. It was semi-formal. Food was nice. Table setting was nice. I am panicking in the back. I actually fell behind the Barn. I had a gash from the top of my knee to the ankle. That's why I was a little shaky.

Grace: Don't stress and fall before your speech.

Jennifer: Or I guess the better advice: when you're planning a big event, wear tennis shoe until you have to go up on stage.

GKU: Any motivational advice to members who are interested?

Jennifer: The main thing is to go in knowing that you made a commitment. People are depending on you. People are relying on you. You can't make a promise and when a midterm comes up, Golden Key doesn't matter anymore.

Grace: Two hundred plus members are relying on you. Also, don't be afraid to do whatever you can think of, whether it's events or socials. Be creative.

Jennifer: It's a great opportunity to speak up; there is no need to fear.

Grace: When we are calling for election next quarter, don't be afraid to come and show that you are interested. To hear what you are

Jennifer: Make it fun. It's not hard.

Grace: It's not a hard job. I call it a job. It's probably going to be the most fun and relaxing job you'll ever have. It's going to be hard work in a way, but it's not going to take a whole lot of time.

Jennifer: Two hours a week, average. If there is an event coming up, it's a lot more work obviously. Once it's over, it's

"It [my job] is the most rewarding when we get something done for the community"

In the Seat with the Driving Force continued

nothing heavy. For the officers, a lot of things are within their reach. I emailed the officers, reporting on all the things I said I would do.

GKU: Has being an officer of Golden Key opened you up?

Jennifer: When I first met Grace, she was very shy and quiet. I think through this, she has spoken up a lot. She's less frightful. She's gone out of her comfort zone. Eventually that fear begins to subside.

Grace: I wasn't scared. I was intimidated.

Jennifer: She can conduct and lead her own meetings. And that's a big milestone. I think that's what I am most proud of you for.

Grace: Thank you.

GKU: What would you say is the number one quality a leader must have?

Jennifer: The ability to diffuse a situation. There are times when we have people with such strong personality that they are just gonna start firework and go crazy. You need to know how to create a good atmosphere. Good environment.

Grace: Commitment is an important quality that you must possess. If you are not dedicated, if you are not committed, all you previous work is nothing if you don't follow through. If you don't show that you aren't interested. Be dedicated. Be committed to whatever you do.

Jennifer: I think that is the biggest problem. We have complication getting officers to stay committed. Sometimes you have a lot more integrity if you just say that you aren't ready to commit. Or if things to come up. An important part is that you need to know when you can't help it anymore. Give yourself that time, think either I need time or I just need to let it go.

GKU: Any last comment/advice/motto you want to share?

Jennifer: Golden Key has been pretty good to us.

Grace: It's up to officers next year to keep up our image of this chapter. Don't let it fall. It's been two years of hard work. We would like this to last.

Jennifer: Be a lasting chapter. If you think about it on these terms, when you graduate and you go into your job, you wanna let people know that you were in Golden Key. When they look up Golden Key, they see that there is still something going on. It isn't just officers, being members as well, you would want that. To be proud that this is an organization that recognizes the top 15% of the school. It would be a shame if that just dies.

GKU: To end the interview on a happy note, what's your favorite ice cream flavor?

Jennifer: Coffee

Grace: Vanilla



YouTube
Broadcast Yourself

**Video
Contest**

Golden Key is sponsoring a contest for chapters to create a video about the 2008 International Conference! Eligible videos are posted on YouTube and judged by the general public and a Golden Key panel. The winning video submission will be played at the 2008 International Conference Opening Session and the chapter will earn special recognition and bonus spirit points for its region in the Annual Spirit Competition! Please [visit the Golden Mainsite](#) and click on "View YouTube Video Contest Rules".

Missing His Magnolia

By Jennifer P. DoNascimento

Jennifer P. DoNascimento was born in Brazil and moved to California with her parents and siblings in 1999. This spring she will be graduating with a B.A. in English and plans to go back to Brazil to teach English and work as a translator. In this poem she tried to convey the disorienting effect of a lost love.

His chest rises and falls. Sweet
mint aroma escapes his mouth.
As his syncopated breathing fogs the mirror
misty droplets multiply.
Like a magnet, it lures him in. He bends closer;
mouth begins to quiver, magenta lips come apart,
slowly. Before contact he stares at his own pupils.
He sees the minute dark brown discs enlarge.
Wishes those were her eyes.

Through the window a
magnolia warbler's song fills the bathroom,
"weety weety wee, weety weety wee." His
murky thoughts distort the sound,
"sweetie sweetie we, sweetie sweetie we..."

He wishes to be the warbler to repose on her
silky cheek, caress her tender body
sing her his melody:
Magnolia, Magnolia,
"sweetie sweetie we, sweetie sweetie we..."

He closes his eyes. He drowns in her
nectar, Malaga wine that inebriates
his wondering soul. The
neck inclines itself to the left.
he imagines she
does the same—in opposite direction.
Before contact, he waits.
Does not open his eyes.

Leaving streaks of fluid the
tongue moves all around the
large oval glass.
It is so much colder than anticipated,
like the frozen look she gave him
igloo still kept inside.
Magnolia, Magnolia

"sweetie, sweetie we, sweet sweetie, we"
Should have never come apart.

Mom

By Cassandra Villa

Cassandra Villa is a senior, majoring in English and Sociology. She wrote this poem in memory of her loving mother who passed away and who has left her with the strength to continue to pursue her education.

For the past two years, I've seen you suffer
Chemo, needles, doctor's appointments, and bad news
I can't imagine all the pain,
All I knew is that I wanted to take it away
You always made me feel better when I was sick
I wish I could have done the same.

Last week, you were just too tired.
Your body was frail and thin and you stopped breathing
The room got quiet and I felt so empty
You went home February 17 at 4:30a.m
It was hard, it still is. I think about you all the time.

At times, I feel like I'm in a dream
I can't believe it's true
My life without you is so hard
But I know you want me to follow through

Emotions are flaring and I don't know how to keep going
You were such a fighter and I wish I was a strong as you
You won your battle Mom and now you're at peace.
I hope I can follow in your footsteps, fight hard, and keep moving.
I'm so proud of you Mom
because of the kind of person you taught me to be
I love you, I carry you in my spirit, and
I know that's how you want it to be.

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**GK Unlocked is looking for Golden Key members
with a submission of 500 words or less or a digital
representation of your work.**

All questions and submissions should be directed to:
gksubmit@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

by Raymond Mata

Golden Key members who are looking to gain some professional experience in their chosen majors can participate in the Washington Internship Institute program. This program offers Golden Key members a great opportunity to build up their resume, create long-lasting professional and personal relationships with other interns and explore the nation's capital while still earning academic units toward their degree. As if those benefits were not enough, Golden Key members who participate in this program will also receive a \$500 scholarship. The deadline to apply for the summer term is March 17th. To learn more about this program, go to www.wiidc.org.

Another great program for members interested in gaining new experiences is the ProWorld Study Abroad Program. Through this program, Golden Key members can visit other countries such as Belize, Mexico, India and Peru and gain some and gain some service-learning experience. This particular study abroad experience is geared toward giving students experience through community projects, internships and academic programs. Golden Key members who participate in this program can receive a \$550 member grant for any study abroad semester program, \$250 member grant for any study abroad summer, winter and international internship program, and will have access to three \$1000 member scholarships for students studying in Australia, Canada, and the United States. If you have any questions, direct them to info@myproworld.org or 1-877-733-7378. Members can also visit www.myproworld.org for more information about the

If you are a Golden Key member interested in networking with other members across the nation and various corporations and graduate school programs, then the 2008 International Conference is the opportunity you are looking for. This year the International Conference will be held in New Orleans from July 31 to August 3, 2008, and in this three day period Golden Key members can have the experience of a lifetime. Members will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from corporations like Boeing and Geico to gain some helpful information to see if those companies are a good fit for their future employment goals. They can also meet with representatives from graduate programs such as the University of South Carolina, Moore School of Business or the University of Virginia, and the Darden Graduate School of Business to learn about each respective program.

Outside of the benefits of networking with various graduate school programs and corporations, being apart of the International Conference would also be a great opportunity for members who are planning on becoming officers in the next school year. UC Riverside Golden Key members can network with Golden Key members from other chapters and gain some great insight and ideas that they can use to enhance the UC Riverside Chapter. Members who are interested in attending the International Conference should contact the Grace Cheng at ychen023@student.ucr.edu or Jennifer Tran at jennifer.t23@gmail.com. The UCR Golden Key Chapter will provide compensation for travel expenses for one UCR Chapter member who is willing to go to the International Conference.

UCR Golden Key members who are interested in gaining some extra money to use toward books, supplies, tuition, or any other expenses should consider applying for the chapter scholarship. One member will earn a \$300 scholarship, two members will earn a \$200 scholarship and three members will earn a \$100 scholarship. No essays are required to apply for the chapter scholarships and members will just need to answer a few short questions. The deadline to apply is May 15th and members can apply at http://www.honors.ucr.edu/goldenkey/scholarship_app.asp

UCR Golden Key members can network and gain relationships with other UCR members through the chapter socials that will be held Spring quarter. One social will be held at the beginning of the Spring quarter outside of campus and the last social will be held toward the end of the quarter.

The end of the year social will be a root beer float social and prizes will be given away to members. For one member, who is deemed to be the most active member, an ipod shuffle will be given away. For members to be considered active they need to attend the general meetings and participate in any activities and events the chapter is participating in. To win the ipod shuffle a member must attend the end of the year social. No dates for either of the socials have been scheduled yet but information concerning the socials will be emailed in the future weeks so members should monitor their webmail closely.



If you have any ideas or are interested in joining the GK Unlocked staff contact:

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GOLDEN KEY HONOUR SOCIETY

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Key website at
www.goldenkey.org

Embers in Canyon Country

By Rachel Kolb

Rachel Kolb is a senior, majoring in Creative Writing, and a writer for Golden Key Unlocked. This poem was written both as an experiment and a way to look back on a frightening fall.

No, I wasn't there when it happened. I witnessed it through the TV like most, sat on my ass and made urgent calls. Sent silent hope to the sky that doors, miles and mountains, away would stay silent; that no knocks of evacuation would come to them. I watched the flames creep around the rim of the valley, circling like a famished pride of lions. I closed my eyes to the vision of my home going up in a blaze. I opened them to a five second delay of burning embers.

Two months later I go back, to Lisa's house, perched on a hill with a perfect view of the burnt valley. She shows me the scorched ground, a yard away from her back door. *When it was there*, she tells me as she points to the dual water towers sitting squat atop the hill, *the firefighters were told to stand down. It raced down the hill, jaws wide open, and the neighbors warded it off; saved their memories.* In the distance, I see a warped shard of glass and remember how on my way back I passed lots filled with mangled metal, skeletons of a life once lived; rolled by my old high school neat and untouched, glanced across the road to find ruins. *We were lucky*, Lisa says, pulling me back from the charred landscape. *We're lucky it was stopped before it leaped.* And I agree, but I can still feel the heat creeping up behind me.


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Golden Key is **NOW** providing exclusive online access to:

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- leading web site for career information and company profiles
- over 1,100 career advice articles
- archive of more than one million message postings

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www.goldenkey.org