



## NEW PEER MENTORS! Spring Training Retreat

—Rachael Payan

The UHP staff held this year's spring quarter peer mentor training retreat at the James Preserve in Idyllwild. It was on Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th, and oh, what fun it was!

Dear Melanie...  
Advice Inside!



## An Astronomical Choice for Chancellor

—Jamal Phillips

UCR's newest Chancellor comes well qualified for the position. On Tuesday April 9, the UC regents confirmed Dr. France Córdova, a distinguished astrophysicist and former NASA scientist, as the next chancellor. Córdova will take the helm starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, replacing acting Chancellor David Warren. France Córdova's unique background made her the unanimous choice of the Regents.

France Córdova was born in Paris, France, and was raised in the Los Angeles area. She received her undergraduate education at Stanford University, receiving a bachelor's degree cum laude in English in 1969. She then went on to conduct anthropology fieldwork in a Zapotec Indian pueblo in Mexico. She then pursued her life-long interest in science by getting a staff position at the California Institute of Technology. After faculty encouragement, she enrolled in the graduate program there and received her doctorate in physics from Cal Tech in 1979.

Later, Córdova would work as an astrophysicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico until 1989. Pennsylvania State University was her next stop,

where she taught astronomy and astrophysics. In 1993, Córdova was named the Chief Scientist at NASA, where she was awarded NASA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1996, she began her current position as Vice-Chancellor for Research at UC Santa Barbara. Córdova has been credited with greatly expanding the research programs at UCSB, which she looks forward to doing at UCR. Córdova also serves on many national scientific committees.

Córdova's greatest contributions have been in observational and experimental astrophysics, space-borne instrumentation, and multi-spectral research on X-ray and gamma ray sources. Through Córdova, UCSB students are now working on analyzing data from a satellite launched by the European Space Agency.

Córdova will be well prepared to lead UCR as it faces a growing enrollment in the future. Her appointment makes her the first Latina Chancellor of a UC. She is the second female chancellor at UCR, and also the second Hispanic chancellor. Her abilities, experience, and leadership will be a catalyst to the growth, expansion, and future success.

### Inside this issue:

Faculty Executive Committee	2
Goodbye, Seniors!	3
Losing the PE Department?	3
Dear Melanie, Help with MCATs!	4
Orange Blossom Festival	4
Peer Mentor Training 2002	4

### UHP Website at a glance:

- *Link to info and applications for big name and big \$\$\$ scholarships.*
- *View the most current Honors Courses and their syllabi.*
- *Check out pictures of you and your friends.*
- *Update your contact information.*
- *Flip through the Virtual Student Handbook*
- *Find Speaker Series & Upcoming Events*

[www.honors.ucr.edu](http://www.honors.ucr.edu)

# The UHP Faculty Executive Committee (continued from last quarter)



**Dr. Randolph C. Head**  
Professor of History  
By Jennifer LaGrange

Between personal anecdotes and advice on choosing a career path, Dr. Head had this to say to my fellow honors students: To the lower classmen: "Take time and look around. Explore what turns you on," you don't have to know what you want immediately. One of the best things about our society is

the flexibility -we allow people to become whatever they want, and to change professions. That is something that not everyone in the world is able to do. And to the upper classmen, Dr. Head advises: "Don't rush. Pick something and get into it, but don't worry about whether it's practical or not." Though studying about distant cultures and ancient languages may not have everyday applications - it may turn out to be a great contribution to academic tradition.

Upon entering the office of Dr. Randolph C. Head, I expected merely a cordial greeting. Instead, I was greeted with hearty enthusiasm and vigor by this graduate advisor and associate professor for the history department. Immediately put at ease by his friendly banter, I learned that like so many people, Dr. Head has a variety of interests. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in anthropology from Harvard (where he also dabbled around in theatre for many years), and a Master's Degree and Doctorate from the University of Virginia. In addition to this, Dr. Head specializes in the political culture of sixteenth and seventeenth century Switzerland.

Since 1992, Dr. Head has worked with students at UCR. Though the atmosphere here is decidedly different from that of Harvard and the University of Virginia, Dr. Head believes that the student bodies are not altogether dissimilar. These other institutions have greater financial resources, but they are filled with students who have had a rich academic background. Conversely, UCR is filled with many students who have not experienced the same type of rigorous academic training, and are ready to immerse themselves in study.

Having taught many honors sections and seminars, and being a member of the executive committee, Dr. Head confesses that although his best students have not always been honors students, honors students are typically well-disciplined. Though lower division honors students are a joy to teach, the real fun starts when upper division students begin their projects. These students know what they want, and dive into a program of study that is unique and specialized. At whatever level of honors a student is involved, Dr. Head asserts that one of the main benefits offered by the honors program, is the insight into academic life that it provides. Not only as a student, but as a possible career academic.

Dr. Head is an extremely approachable and interesting man, and if you have the opportunity to attend an honors section or seminar with him, do it! You will have an amazing time. And

who knows, you may end up with an advisor and idea for an honors senior thesis project.



**Dr. Quing Jiang**  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
By Gohar Stepanyan

When he first started at University of California, Riverside, Dr. Quing Jiang brought to our campus his wide experience and knowledge. Dr. Jiang received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Hua Zhong University of Science and Technology. In 1990, he received his Ph. D. in Applied Mathematics from California

Institute of Technology. Before joining the Engineering Department at UCR, Dr. Jiang held appointments at both, national and international research institutions. Soon after becoming a Professor for Engineering Mechanics, Dr. Jiang was asked to serve on the University Honors Program (UHP) Executive Committee.

Along with conducting research in a very fast developing field of smart technology, Dr. Jiang was able to contribute to the UHP's growing community. His general research is concerned with developing electrically active smart materials with adaptive capabilities. Specifically, Dr. Jiang is currently working on developing

carbon nano-tubes that have become of such high interest in the scientific world today. These tiny devices are not only of interest to the engineers, but also researchers, who are currently testing them for use in various disciplines, such as biomedical sciences.

Dr. Jiang's involvement with the University Honors Program encourages many students from the College of Engineering to complete the Lower and Upper Division Honors Program. He realizes the challenges that these students face when trying to complete both, their college requirements, and those of the Honors Program. There is currently insufficient overlap between the courses that fulfill the College Breadth and the UHP course requirements. Dr. Jiang's efforts to create new opportunities for these students are overpowered by budget and faculty limitations. Yet, there is hope that one day these goals will be accomplished and more College of Engineering students will complete the Lower Division Honors Program.

**Dr. Conrad Rudolph**  
By Clarissa Rennison

As the son of an archeologist, Dr. Conrad Rudolph has always been exposed to history and art. After high school, with his hard-earned savings, Dr. Rudolph took a trip to Europe. Upon his arrival he instantly fell in love with the amazing architecture and knew he wanted to pursue a career in Art History. With an abundance of self-motivation and the desire to do something different and interesting with his life, Dr. Rudolph successfully attained his BA, M.A., and Ph.D. at UCLA. In the summer of 1996, using the twelfth-century Pilgrim's

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Meet our Faculty Executive Committee!*

## Executive Committee *(continued)*

---

*(Continued from page 2)*

Guide of the Codex Calixtinus, he completed a grueling medieval pilgrimage that took two and a half months. The thousand-mile journey began in Le Puy in south central France and ended in Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

Currently, Rudolph is chair of the Art History Department and teaches a number of upper-division classes. For the past 11 years, with medieval art being his area of interest, he has been researching "The Mystic Ark", which is an extremely complex summa. It contains hundreds of transcriptions describing all of physical creation (beginning with Adam and Eve).

He was recently awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship

## Goodbye Seniors! -*Kyle Chang*

---

Born in Malaysia, Theeng came to the US at the age of three and resides in Hacienda Heights (as well as Riverside of course). Theeng decided to attend UCR because of...the grass (and of course the honors program!). Theeng originally was undeclared in humanities but finally decided on Art History. She has greatly enjoyed being a member of the honors community for these past four years. As of now, her situation is uncertain after graduation. Theeng's advice to honors students: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." -Henry David Thoreau

Originally from Whittier, Adam chose UCR primarily because of his Regents scholarship. (full tuition for four years is tempting). Adam says he joined the honors program because "it seemed like the thing to do." He stayed in the honors program because "the people are cool." "Without honors, I wouldn't have any cool friends," says Adam. Adam, one of the most amazing individuals, enjoys watching movies and laughing. He is also a great bowler. In addition, he has climbed up the eastern Sierra Mountain peaks in treacherous weather as an Eagle Scout. He has decided on UCSB for graduate school. His advice to current/future honors students: "Get good grades, have fun, and try to relieve stress as much as possible. Go study abroad and spend as much time away from Riverside as possible." (He studied abroad in England).

Clarissa was born in San Diego but grew up in

along with a Kress grant to study and digitize this work of art using 12<sup>th</sup> century imagery. At the completion of this project, he will publish his fourth book. Dr. Rudolph believes that in order to succeed, one must always be conscious of one's strengths and talents and pursue opportunities that take advantage of them.

As a member of the University Honors program's executive committee, Dr. Rudolph views the Honor Program as one of the most important programs on campus, and believes UCR would suffer without it. He feels it is extremely beneficial to the students in that it fosters success! One thing that he would like to see developed is an Educational Abroad Program component, in which students could travel to a foreign country and engage in research that pertains to their fields of interest.

Ontario and attended Chaffey High. She decided on UCR in the first place because it was close and she liked "the UC with a personal touch." That was before Division I. "I'm a better person because I participated in the Honor's program," says Clarissa. She appreciates the exposure to ethics, which made her develop her own. She is also grateful for the community service and personal growth requirements, as she is still volunteering in her church. She believes honors has given her the knowledge and confidence to succeed in the future. Clarissa is presently debating whether to attend graduate school in the fall, but wishes to attain a Master's in Social Work and Public Health and either work in county programs for disadvantaged children or in hospitals with terminally ill children. Her advice to current/future honors students is to utilize the Honor's Program because "ours is definitely special in that our staff genuinely cares for the students and their success." Her words of wisdom: "What you put in is what you will receive so, definitely work to your full potential!"

Jennifer is the first person in her family to enter college directly out of high school, and the first to attend law school. She says her family, consisting of her mother and brother, was always extremely supportive of her, and has made many sacrifices to ensure that she had opportunities for success. Most importantly, her family has made it possible for her to get through college without working, so that she can be involved in an upper division honors

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Losing the PE Department? -*Brooke Wilken*

---

Do away with PE classes? Were we ever given the decision to vote for what we want? As students paying for the service we get at the University, it should be our right to vote for such a thing; the administration is trying to impliment money-saving tactics behind our backs. This is not good policy.

Besides our not voting for this decision, why is it being made? What is the school thinking? First, we have just moved into Division I Athletics and we are making a name for ourselves. All of the other UCs have PE classes as well as inter-

collegiate and intramural athletics, so why shouldn't we? So we are taking athletics to the next level for our student-athletes only, and doing away with PE for the rest of the student body? This doesn't make sense.

Finally, what effects will this decision have on the student body? We will be getting rid of one of the best karate programs in the nation. Many people right now are signing petitions protesting this decision. Will we see results from the money we are getting by doing away with PE classes? As any intelligent col-

lege student knows, being a well-rounded individual is important. We need to be healthy as well as intelligent. The healthier we are, the more stress-free we become, and the clearer our brains work, than if we are stocked up on junk food and sitting on our lazy butts studying all of the time.

The most we can demand is a proper vote on this decision; if it turns out that the students want to do away with the PE program, then it is the best thing to do. However, we should be allowed that decision.

## Dear Melanie, Help! I don't know what to do about the MCATS!...

Dear Melanie,  
I'm planning to take the MCATs this summer and I'm trying to pick a prep class, but I can't decide between Kaplan and Hyperlearning. Can you tell me the pros/cons for both to help me decide? Thanks.  
Sleepless in UCR

Dear Sleepless,

With the MCAT fast approaching, finding a prep course that's right for you is especially important. If your learning style is geared towards a more defined daily rou-

time or you have trouble with organization, then Hyperlearning, which meets 5 days a week for 2 and a half hours a day, may be for you. Meeting every day forces you to look at the material especially if you procrastinate and allows you to practice in a classroom environment more often. If you are an independent study type or you want to bolster your motivation, then Kaplan, which meets 3 days a week for 3 hrs a day, may be the best choice for you. In terms of teaching style, Hyperlearning reviews

the material in more depth than Kaplan. In comparison, Kaplan helps with test-taking strategies with the assumption that you already know the material well and thus there is less review. Visit both their websites

www.kaplan.com and  
www.princetonreview.com

for more information on prep courses and registration. Thanks for the great question, Sleepless!

Sincerely, Melanie

## Peer Mentor Training 2002 -Rachael Payan

The staff of the UHP kicked off its 2002 spring quarter peer mentor training with a retreat in the James Preserve in Idyllwild on Friday and Saturday, the 5th and 6th of April. There the UHP staff, current peer mentors, and peer mentors in training gathered to meet, interact and learn about each other and about what being a peer mentor means to the different people involved. The evening and following day were filled with group activities, important conversations, campfire songs, and a lot of great food. It was a great opportunity for old and new mentors to become acquainted and learn to work together. Everyone had experience that others could learn from and by the end of the

week a great foundation had been set for 10 weeks of training to come.

During those ten weeks the mentors in training will learn how to provide or direct their mentees toward the resources they need during their first year in college as honors students. They will also have the opportunity to participate in this year's SUHP, as well as functioning as the teaching assistants and discussion leaders for fall quarter's Honors 9 colloquium. Current peer mentors also get involved in the process by giving presentations on different academic topics that all mentors need to be familiar with, including financial aid, major and breadth requirements, and commu-

nity service opportunities. These presentations serve the secondary function of refreshing information for the sake of returning peer mentors as well.

The UHP staff has put and will continue to invest an incredible amount of time and effort into providing an excellent program for all the honors students. Their efforts are evident in the wonderful results enjoyed by so many honors students. Shivali Patel said that this program isn't one in which you get things dictated to you. We actually have a say in what is done, and help decide what we will be involved in all year. It helps us get more out of the Honors experience.

## Orange Blossom Festival -by Darwin Viernes

The annual celebration of the oncoming Orange season has been the hallmark of Riverside's culture. The event called for the closure of several city blocks in the heart of downtown during the weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by Stater Brothers, the fair stressed the historic importance of agriculture to the Riverside area while providing entertainment for the crowd. This year, there were more than forty varieties of oranges that were available for taste testing. Not only is the festival full of mouth water-

ing oranges, but the streets were lined with vendors selling items such as sand pets, glow sticks, sunglasses and a variety of food items. If you walked down University Ave, you would notice the live music that was being played. For those of age, several microbreweries were on hand for taste testing. On the other hand, there were several foods being offered for sale ranging from Mediterranean to Latin American food. One could not forget the delicious flavor of

strawberries and whipped cream placed on top of a sweet funnel cake. Although they were being sold for six dollars, the cake was well worth it. The fair attracted all audiences as it had a carnival with several different rides as well as games that people could play. A technology tent was also up which updated the community as to what is new. On top of it all, a fireworks display on Saturday night wowed the crowd, marking the coming of the orange season.

## Goodbye Seniors (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

project and still graduate with honors by the age of 20. The lower division honors program has helped her adjust to college life and has introduced her to new friends. Regarding upper division honors, she says "it has given her an opportunity to be part of something great, doing professional re-

search that will make an impact in the field." By the way, she is going to be published! Jennifer plans to enroll in law school in Fall 2002. As of now, she plans on enrolling in University of California at Davis law school, but has yet to hear from many schools, so her plans are tentative at this point. She hopes to ob-

tain a law degree by 2005 and plans on practicing either entertainment or intellectual property law. Her advice to a fellow honors student: "Get involved in an upper division honors project. Don't be scared by the 50 page requirement, because once you get the research done, 50 pages is not difficult."