



UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM Honorable Mentions

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University of
California Riverside

Spring 2003

New Plans for Honors Hall

By Nelly Tan

University Honors resident halls will be extending to the new Pentland Hills building beginning Fall of 2003. Interested returning students and new first-year students will have the option of living in either A-I or Pentland, and because Honors is expanding, the program will be able to accommodate all Honors students who want to live in the hall. In the previous years, limited space in the E-wing of A-I has capped the number of students who could actually live in the honors hall. In addition to the new changes, the residents will also have a Resident Fellow Faculty living in the Pentland Hills resident halls. Hence, the faculty would be more accessible and students can more conveniently seek assistance. Also, the UHP will have an office at Pentland and a room in Pentland to teach honors courses.

Discover Days

By Melissa Gallagher

As the spring quarter begins for current UCR students eager to reach the freedom of summer, thousands of high school students are making their way onto the sprawling Riverside campus to check out the scene. With thoughts

Regent's scholars, although not eligible for the Honors fellowship, will be able to secure a spot in the honors hall next year.

Next year will be my fourth year living the honor's hall and it has been a wonderful experience for me. Honors students are outgoing and friendly and it feels great to get to know other Honors students. Returning students are excited about these new developments because moving to Pentland Hills will allow us to have a Junior and Senior suite. This will enable the returning students to still have the fellowship with our honors peers, while also giving the first-year students more freedom to experience dorm life without feeling pressured from the returners to be quieter in the halls. Next year is going to be an exciting year as Honors implements these new changes.

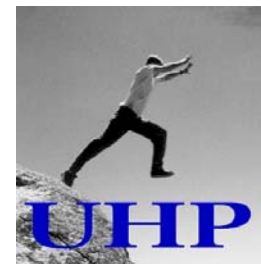
of next year already looming largely on their minds and a letter of 'intent to register' waiting to be sent in to a lucky university, would-be freshmen have tough decisions to make within the next couple of weeks. UCR, along with many

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue:

<i>Honor Societies</i>	2
<i>Summer Enrichment Programs</i>	3
<i>Tips for your Apartment Search</i>	4
<i>Writers Week</i>	4



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Discover Days: Honors Recruiting

(Continued from page 1)

other campuses, making every attempt to assure that its program and the opportunities it has to offer are known to high school seniors.

As one of many outreach programs throughout the year, UCR is hosting Discovery Days for potential incoming students this spring to take place on April 11, 16 and 23. While tours of the dorms and grounds are available aboard the familiar tram service, many campus clubs and organizations are taking advantage of this opportunity to recruit members for next year by

sponsoring booths and information sessions. Without hesitation, the University Honors Program jumped into action with the



hopes of recruiting an even larger incoming honors class for 2003-2004. In addition to handing out an assortment of fliers and talk-

ing with high school seniors and their parents, Dr. Fischer, Leslie, Christina, Jason, and honors peer mentors led information sessions in the terrace rooms describing all the benefits and opportunities the program has to offer would-be UCR students. Holding two information sessions for each Discovery Day, there is little doubt that once again honors will have a large, diverse and talented incoming class for 2003-2004.



Community Service

By Eileen McCann

It is half way through the spring quarter. Do you know where you are going to fulfill your community service requirement? If the answer is no, you may want to have a conversation with your friendly neighborhood Honors mentor, or continue reading for an answer sure to solve all your service problems.

Most students in Lower Division honors are familiar with the ten hour community service requirement on the quarterly Learning Contract, but not very many people are aware of the exciting and enriching activities, that have been planned by Honors Program staff in the past few months, which offer Honors students opportunities to fulfill

requirements and still have a great time.

An example of an exciting activity that recently occurred was a trip to Baja, Mexico planned by Honors mentors and staff for students to fulfill community service hour requirements, but more importantly, fill the young hearts of orphaned children with joy and care. On the Saturday during week 8 of the winter quarter, UCR students boarded a bus for *Puerto de Fe* orphanage, where students provided lunch, crafts, and buddies to play sports with for the disadvantaged youth.

While there were some transportation setbacks along the six hour round trip bus ride, most students agreed it was well worth the trip. Derek

(Continued on page 3)

2003 California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education

Rachael Payan

On Saturday, April 5, UCLA hosted the 13th Annual California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education. This forum, which was formerly the California Minority Graduate Education Forum, seeks to encourage high-achieving students from groups underrepresented in graduate education to attend graduate school. The forum offers seminars on preparing for, applying to, and surviving in grad school, and also invites recruiters from graduate programs across the country.

The welcoming remarks included a keynote address from Roosevelt Johnson, a program director for the National Science Foundation. Dr. Johnson encouraged all attending to strive to become well balanced individuals, and avoid making "what you do" the equivalent of "who you are." After these opening ceremonies, students were en-

couraged to choose from several workshops and panel presentations, which included "GRE Preparation Workshop" courtesy of Princeton Review, "How to Select, Apply to, and Prepare for Graduate School", and "Financing Your Graduate Education." Panels were discipline-specific, and featured current or former graduate students with first-hand insight to the graduate student experience. In addition to panels and workshops, students were able to visit recruiters from 77 institutions representing various graduate opportunities at 128 tables at the Graduate School Fair in the UCLA Court of Sciences. Attending Schools included all UC campuses, many Cal State campuses, Cal Tech, Yale, Purdue, NYU, Northwestern, Harvard, Stanford, and many more. \

The forum provided all attendees with a glimpse at the possibilities and implications of

pursuing a graduate education. Though the process was presented as rigorous and demanding, it was also presented as attainable and even essential to serious students with the desire to attend. Hopefully, with myths of impossibility dispelled by realistic assessments and much-needed encouragement, many of these aspiring individuals will step into the gaps left by a generation of retiring professors.



(Continued from page 2)

Kwan, a second year Honors student, mentioned the experience was rewarding for both the children in Mexico and the students at UCR, because it opened their eyes to the conditions of others and made them grateful for all that they had here in Riverside.

Other activities planned for this quarter that will prove to be just as promising include the Relay For Life fund raiser. During the event, teams of people take turns walking a track continuously for 24 hours in hopes to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The event at Riverside Community College, on May 3, brings together food, entertain-

ment, and socializing with a great cause that needs your help.

The following week, on May 10, the Honors program is hosting a Kids Fair at a mission in San Bernardino, where booths providing games and crafts will be sponsored by various organizations. Louisa Hanna and Shirley Tung, two of the organizers of this wonderful event, describe the volunteer opportunity as an experience similar to volunteering at a Baja orphanage, but with out the long hours of transportation. How could anyone miss an opportunity where "Baja comes to you"?

If you are interested in any of the upcoming community service events, watch for e-mails or stop



Spring Training: Aspiring Peer Mentors 'Retreat' to Idyllwild

By Melanie Fadul

In order to become better acquainted with one another and forge a lasting team bond, this year's prospective peer mentors, along with some veteran peer mentors, spent a weekend in a cabin situated in the mountains of Idyllwild. Although the cabin's interior was built to house about twelve people, the twenty-seven individuals that attended this retreat still found the sleeping arrangements comfortable when they laid out their sleeping bags on the cabin's plush carpeting. Linda De Hoyos, a third year political science peer mentor describes the accommodations: "The cabin was gorgeous and the food was plentiful." As a plus, however, the cabin was also furnished with many diversions—a pool table, cable, and a VCR and DVD player which helped to fill up the down time between events. Aside from becoming closer spatially (ie. the sleeping arrangements), this two-day retreat consisted of various activities that fostered a strong sense of teamwork. One such activity pitted the female peer

mentors against the males in a "no holds barred" game of Pictionary with the stakes being the privilege of not having to clean the bathrooms. Unfortunately for the girls, the boys bested them, claiming the title of Pictionary champions this year.

Other activities were more collective such as an activity that had the entire group attempting to untie knots in a long stretch of rope with only their right hand while the left hand is planted firmly on the rope and not allowed to move.

"...this two-day retreat consisted of various activities that fostered a strong sense of teamwork..."

Showing their dedication, the mentors had to brave the elements as they completed the task of untying the knots as both snow and temperature fell. These two days in scenic Idyllwild was not all hard work; mentors had time to take in some episodes of the funny character that lives in a pineapple under the sea and the classic movie *Willow*. Even when the cabin's surroundings grew pitch dark,

the lights in the mentor's sleeping quarters remained, as they played game after game of Mafia, which did not cease until the sky grew light again. Third year psychology peer mentor Sandy Chansamone had this to say about the games and the retreat in general, "It was a lot of fun getting to know the new mentors and bonding with everyone. I learned how to play Mafia. Trust no one." It is clear that this year's group of trainees will contribute an even stronger peer mentoring effort and camaraderie to next year's incoming freshman. If these descriptions are not enough to satisfy your curiosity, check out the pictures of the retreat on the Honors Website (http://www.honors.ucr.edu/peermentor_pics.htm) and perhaps you may want to join the Honors crew up in Idyllwild next year.