

HNPG 10B —

- Nancy Beckage, Entomology
- June O-Conner, Religious Studies
- Randy Head, History
- Margarita Curras-Collazo, Cell Biology & Neuroscience
- Enda Bonacic, Sociology & Ethnic Studies
- Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Religious Studies
- Joel Martin, Religious Studies

These are just some of the faculty who are lined up for SPRING 2006.

Inside this issue:

Spotlight: Deanna Garrett	1,4
History in the Making	2
Honors Students Activists	3
Interview with Emily Udem	4
Honors in Bands	5,6
Done for me	6

Honorable Mentions

Spotlight: Deanna Garrett by Sean O'Grady

As you all know, one of our newest additions to the University Honors Program is our fantastic Lower Division Coordinator, Deanna Garrett. Between meetings with first year students, peer mentors, and other staff members, I was able to sit down with Deanna and chat with her about some of her life experiences.

SO: *So Deanna, where did you grow up?*

DG: *I am originally from Salem, Virginia, but most recently I lived in Durham, New Hampshire and Burlington, Vermont.*

SO: *Where did you go to college?*

DG: *I did my undergrad at the University of Virginia and my Master's degree at the University of Vermont.*

SO: *I've heard you call yourself an "East Coast girl"... has that changed at all since you moved to California?*

DG: *Ha, not yet! I'm still getting used to warm weather in winter and not having to pile on two outer layers just to walk 10 feet! Also, the pace of the West Coast is different than back East. I'm not sure if one is better, but I am definitely loving California and UCR.*

SO: *What are your likes and dislikes about Southern California?*

DG: *I love the weather, the racial and ethnic diversity, the landscape, and the ability to get to the ocean, mountains, and desert in an hour. I am still adjusting to the traffic, the smog, and the amount of people (there are more people in Riverside County than the entire state of Vermont).*

SO: *What did you do before you came to the Honors Program at UCR?*

DG: *For the previous two years I was working at the University of Vermont as a Residence Director in the Living/Learning Cen-*



A newsletter for Honors Students!

ter. Before that, I worked as a Hall Director for four years at the University of New Hampshire.

SO: *What made you want to work here?*

DG: *The Honors Program itself. My partner and I wanted to move west, and we both were job searching. I saw the job posting for the Honors Program and went to the website. I was hooked immediately. UHP is a unique program and it was clear from the start that Honors is committed to the students.*

SO: *So we all know that Honors students are a little, well, different. What do you like so far about working with students in the Honors Program?*

DG: *I have never worked with a more talented, versatile, and motivated group of students. Every day I learn something new and I love coming to work. The Peer Mentors are an amazing group of students, and I love the First Year students.*

SO: *What's your favorite "comfort food"?*

DG: *Breakfast foods, especially pancakes and soy bacon (I'm a vegetarian). I also love anything chocolate.*

SO: *If you found a magical genie, what*

(Continued on page 4)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING by Khaleelah Hardie



SHANI DAVIS

Born: 1982 - Chicago IL USA

Resides: Calgary AB Canada

World's Highest Ranking: First

World Titles: 2005 World All-round Champion

2004 - 1500 meters World Single Distance Champion

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 185 lbs.

Since the month of February is nationally recognized as Black History Month, I feel that it is necessary to input an article that acknowledges important people of African descent that are not well known. There are many people that helped build this country that I would like to focus on, but since we are in the midst of an intense Olympic "Battle" I thought it fitting to highlight various firsts of Blacks in the Olympics.

Olympic medallist, **George Poage**, was the first African American to compete in the Olympic games in 1904 (Summer games). He won two bronze medals in the 200 m hurdles and 400 m hurdles.

University of Pennsylvania quarter-mile record holder **John Baxter "Doc" Taylor** became the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal. He accomplished his feat in the 4 x 400 relay, running the third leg of the race, in the 1908 London Olympics. He also played professional football for the Akron Indians.

William DeHart Hubbard won the long jump at the 1924 Olympics, becoming the first black athlete to win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event. He also set the long jump world record in

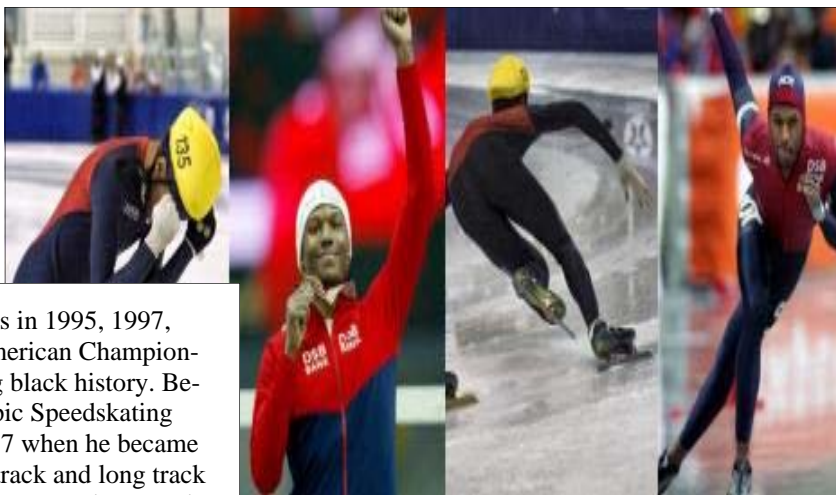
1925 (25-10³/₄) and tied the 100-yard dash record (9.6) in 1926.

Alice Coachman became the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal with her win in the high jump in 1948 (London, Summer). She also broke the high school and college high jump records despite not wearing any shoes. She is now a member of the National Track & Field Hall of Fame.

Olympic medallist for the winter games of 1988, **Debbi Allen**, won the bronze in figure skating, but I was unable to find further information on her.

On February 19, 2002 **Vonetta Flowers** became the first African American woman to win a Gold Medal in any Winter Olympic sport. She was also the first American woman to win a gold medal in bobsleigh. Vonetta, the brakeperson and her partner, Jill Bakken, won the gold medal in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Park City, Utah.

One of the latest editions to this list is **Shani Davis**. Just days ago, he became the very first African American to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics in an individual event, 1,000 m speedskating.



Shani won five National Age Group Championships in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2003 and has also won a North American Championship in 1999. Shani does not concentrate on making black history. Before becoming the first black to make a U.S. Olympic Speedskating Team in 2002, Shani began making history at age 17 when he became the first U.S. skater to earn spots on both the short track and long track Junior World Teams and accomplished that feat three years in a row in 2000, 2001 and 2002. Now 22, Shani has traveled all over the world competing in Canada, Hungary, Italy, Finland, Poland, Germany, Russia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Korea, and China. At the 2002 Junior Country Match and 2002 Junior World Championships (two long track competitions held in Italy) Shani won his first international medals when he won the 1500 meters at both competitions, which just happens to be the same event he now holds the World Title.

Honors Students are Activists in Social and Environmental Change

by Anjali Varigonda

This year, two very special student organizations have graced UCR with their pledges to pursue active social, environmental, and political change. As new to UCR they may be, CALpirg (the California Public Interest Research Group) and SEPA (Social Environmental and Political Action) have heralded a new era of student activism at UCR, which will hopefully obliterate the impression that UCR is a socially and politically “apathetic” campus. Many of you may not be familiar with these organizations, but I assume far less of you know that these organizations have a membership mostly comprised of honors students! Yes, UHP students have unglued their brains from the books and generously have been tacking them onto modern issues that deserve some dramatic attention, and which directly affect us as students.

CALPirg is part of the nationwide network of student PIRGS, which have been on nationwide campuses for the past thirty years, fighting special interest groups from being allowed to pollute the environment, endanger public health, and rip off consumers. UCR students in CALPirg have dedicated themselves to working on issues such as hunger and homelessness in Riverside, the lack of solar energy alternatives on campus, and the rising tuition prices and recent cuts in student loans. Members of the Clean Energy Future campaign are trying to convince University officials to install solar panels on new UCR buildings, including the new commons. Laura Hockaday, volunteer for Clean Energy Future states, “We want to reduce global warming emissions and electricity use. Ultimately, you want academic institutions to lead something like that. California is facing an energy crisis, so the time is now for solar power.” Mary Sweeters, Campus Organizer for CALpirg comments, “What I like about CALPirg is that it provides students the ability to become active citizens... we solve problems we see and develop leadership skills to lead our society down a better path. And we’re also making a good investment for our future.”

Anita Chauhan, Co-President of SEPA and Honors peer mentor comments on her inspiration to found SEPA: “The reason my Co-President Teraneh and I founded SEPA is because of the environmental issues that plague our campus. The Referendum that

would push for money to be put into recycling was not passed, and I didn’t feel there weren’t initiatives on campus to push through recycling.” Some of the SEPA’s initiatives are to educate children on thinking about environmental issues that will affect them in the future, to work with “Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful” to plant trees in local areas. One of SEPA’s major events coming up in March will be to host an “Organic Presentation,” where SEPA will present on the benefits of organic products and essentially advertise for a better, healthier lifestyle.

Among both organizations’ common goals is their commitment to save the forests from special interest groups. Among their goals, CALpirg plans to make sure the governor keeps his promise to protect the California National Forests from oil and gas drilling companies that would basically throttle thousands of tourism jobs, critical habitats of endangered species, and freshwater reserves. SEPA plans to initiate a petition against Victoria Secret for cutting down rainforests for their catalogs, as opposed to using recyclable paper for them. Anita sees it crucial in educating people on the importance of our rainforests: “The Rainforests have great potential in medicinal value among many other things, and we’re recklessly throwing them away.”

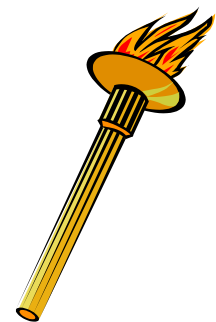
CALPirg and SEPA members may have joined their respective organizations because they had a concern for social, environmental, and political issues, but through them, they’ve become more educated, socially conscious, and open-minded individuals. Karla Olmedo, secretary of SEPA states, “I recycle a lot more, I care more about the environment, and I try not to be wasteful when I can easily prevent doing so.” Shelly Verma, volunteer for CALPirg’s Hunger and Homeless Campaign states, “CALPirg has provided me a larger base of issues occurring in the nation and in the world and has shown me how students have the ability to make a difference.”

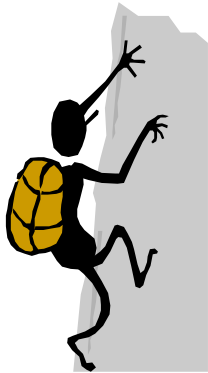
Any big change begins with a few steps in the right direction. I’ve confident that these organizations have great potential in making that change both on a local and international level. UCR is on its way to a more environmentally, socially, and politically active campus thanks to a few caring students. UCR may not be Berkeley in 1969, but we’re surely getting there.



One Earth!

What club or organization are you involved with?





Reaching Your Goals!

Spotlight: Deanna

(Continued from page 1)

would be your three wishes?

DG: *Health and happiness for family and friends, all the Thai and Indian food I can eat, and I would save the last wish to use in the future.*

SO: *Who are your favorite musical artists?*

DG: *I really like folk music and some lesser-known artists.*

Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky, Cheryl Wheeler, and the Indigo Girls are my current favorites. (But secretly, I also really like Hip Hop).

SO: *Are there any good books you would recommend to us?*

DG: *Too many to choose from! I'd recommend any books by Gregory Maguire, Chris Bohjalian, and Barbara Kingsolver to name just a few.*

SO: *What's one of your favorite inspirational quotes?*

DG: *I really like Gandhi's "Be the change you wish to see in the world."*

Interview with Emily Udem by Daniel Polk

As the Upper-Division Coordinate, Emily Udem is a member of the Honors staff who closely involves herself with helping both Upper-Division and continuing Lower-Division students. I sat down with Emily to learn more about her and her background and her outlook on the Honors Program and its students.

"I'm a Riverside native," says Emily, adding that she's "half Puerto Rican and half Hungarian." Since both her parents either worked or attended UCR as a student since before her birth, she notes that she's been on campus "since before I was born."

With a degree in Studio Art from Cal State San Bernardino, Emily has had extensive experience working on campus at UCR. Having started in the Theater/Music Department, Emily first worked as a production and program coordinator while also working part-time in the Reference Department at the Rivera Library.

Soon after that, Emily began working for the Philosophy Department as a Student Advisor, helping her decide to become involved with helping students. "Students are the bomb," Emily says, as she emphasizing how much she enjoys the nature of her job as a student advisor.

In addition to her previous campus jobs, which also included working for the Chemistry Department for nearly two years, Emily worked for the Catholic Church from 2000-2003 with the Social Justice Office and the Youth Ministry.

As a proud single mother, Emily mentions that she keeps "very busy running around after my three-year-old – I never knew I could hold someone over 30 pounds for so long." Her son William, Emily says, "is the main reason I find myself smiling so often."

Having known Dr. Wettstein from the Philosophy Department, Emily began working for the Honors Program last year during SUHP. As the Upper-Division Coordinator, she sees herself has having three main responsibilities: to be a valuable member of a staff team "to make Honors the best it can be," to help students succeed after their first year by guiding continuing Honors students through group meetings, and to let Upper-Division Honors thrive by recruiting, advertising and supporting students with their projects. As Emily makes clear, "growth is a big deal."

Emily explains that her experience with Honors has been "extremely rewarding in the sense of being able to interact with students who are [highly motivated to do their best]." As a part of Honors, Emily enjoys "feeling like part of a team, trying to achieve something [very] positive." Working for Honors has been "extremely fun" for Emily. "Who wouldn't have fun?" she asks.

While she sees her job as both challenging and rewarding, she explains that she enjoys everything about it, especially "being involved in students' lives."

"The only reason I'm here is because the students are here."

*"...talented, versatile,
and motivated group of
students."*



Winter in Southern California

Honors in Bands by Emily Udem

As I've been talking to students these past two quarters I have realized that there are a few honors members who play in bands. The first three I knew about all seemed to have a hard edge to them, well at least to their music that is.

Let me introduce the three members and their musical backgrounds.

Nick Winfrey I sat down with Nick and asked him some questions about his involvement in making music outside of his academic life. Nick got his first guitar as a Christmas present at the age of 12, not receiving formal training of any kind until just last year in the form of a music theory course. He is genuinely self-taught as a guitarist. His current newly formed band is on the verge of putting on their first live performance. Take It Back, which has many members from a former band called Another Life will debut their music on March 31, 2006 at the Laguna Nigel Skate Park. The difference between Another Life and Take It Back is that the former was a straight hardcore band and now punk influences have been added to the mix. I asked Nick how he got involved in hardcore music, "friends in high school were interested in it." Nick writes most of the music using a style of guitar part development first followed with jam sessions with the rest of the band, ending with the lyrics.

I wondered what Nick's musical influences have been. His response was that he likes folk music, mostly Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, and the Carter family. He appreciates a new band out of Europe called Justice who plays hardcore and the last album he purchased was Mental (Planet Mental), which is also hardcore.

Take It Back's web presence is coming soon. Can't wait to hear more about the band.

Srikanth Krishnan During a group meeting I found out that another honors student is a musician in a band. Srikanth Krishnan is the bass player for Jasper Avenue, Srik joined the band in the summer of 2004, but the band members all say that they've only been proud of their music since last winter. Srik started to play the bass after receiving one for his 16th birthday! He played the clarinet before

getting the bass.

Jasper Avenue plays a post-hardcore style, as Srik said, "catchy pop mixed with hardcore." Jasper Avenue sees themselves joining a Christian label and getting gigs throughout the inland empire; all the band members work together to get everything done.

After further discussion I inquired as to what bands influenced Srik's contributions to Jasper Avenue, he said that his influences are As Cities Burn, He is Legend, The Bled, and Underoath. Srik said that if he could play in any type of band "I would love to play everything – thrash to dance music to a jazz funk project!" Obviously Srik is a music fan!

Jasper Avenue puts out original music. The four-piece band writes the music all together, the guitarist write their (main) part first and then the rhythm section (drums, bass) writes around it. Lyrics are added based on how they are feeling that day. When Jasper Avenue plays live, they are fun to watch, and the band members are friendly to their fans after they play. Their shows are listed online.

After talking with Srik further I asked him what was the most recent album he found appealing. I was surprised when he said Gym Class Heroes – an actual hip-hop band. Srik said, "the band is so talented, and the rapper is cool." Srik also told me to make sure that I'm not "... afraid to give different music a chance cuz you never know where it might take you"

Check them out on <http://www.purevolume.com/jasperavenue> and <http://www.myspace.com/jasperavenue>.

Jason Bentley is another student that is in a band but I wasn't able to interview him for this article. The band information can be found at: <http://www.myspace.com/hesperian>. Hopefully I'll be able to interview him for next quarter's issue.

WHO ELSE IS IN A BAND? Please contact me so I can keep the HONORS IN BANDS feature article ALIVE!



What Instrument Do
You Play?

*What are you involved
with? - Let's write about
it in Honorable
Mentions! Contact
Emily Udem for
further information.*

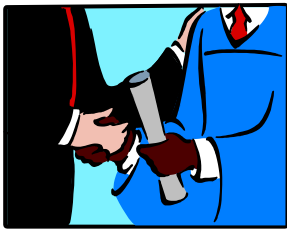


Dance Dance Dance

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Commencement—
June 17-18, 2006

What The Honors Program Has Done For Me

By VanNessa Hill

For the past four years I have been a part of the University Honors Program (UHP). Transforming from a quiet high school graduate to a college senior has been a journey I will never forget. Many people along the way thought I wouldn't be able to make it this far and accomplish my dreams, let alone graduate and be accepted into a PhD program. Through all of my trials and tribulations, the staff and students of the UHP has been my cheering section, encouraging me when I thought I didn't have the strength to do it myself. The support I received from the UHP has come in many forms, from requirements to complete lower division, to hours of talking and being counseled on career and personal decisions. One memory that still stands out in my mind is the day I

walked into Kathy Jones' Office and told her I needed a major before my third year started so that I could graduate on time. She took the time to sit and talk with me. We decided from previous conversations that neuroscience was a major I could enjoy and left me many opportunities for the future. I'm sure many other things needed to be taken care of but the commitment to the students has been the highlight of the Honors Program and one of many reasons why I keep coming back for more. The UHP does not just put in all the work to help students find and reach their goals; students must also bring something to show dedication. The requirement of completing several items of the learning contracts shows that students are willing to work with the Honors

Program to obtain maximum benefit. The community service projects and personal growth I completed also contributed to this journey I have endured. The Campus Safety Escort Service (CSES) allowed my communication skills to develop by meeting complete strangers for two hours a week, the UHP peer mentor program has allowed me to become a teacher, friend, mentor, public speaker, and columnist. Though the staff and the program have changed during my years as a student here it has been with good intentions and each person and opportunity afforded me has touched my life. My wish for the University Honors Program is that you continue to thrive and reach student in many more ways than you have touched my life.