



# HONOR GRAM

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY  
HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3



## THE HONORGRAM

is a newsletter designed to inform and update Honors faculty and students as well as those who are interested in the La Sierra University Honors Program. If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter, or ideas that you would like to contribute, please email us: [honors@lasierra.edu](mailto:honors@lasierra.edu)

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## Scholarship Presentations

MONDAY, MAY 12, 3:00 PM

**Kevin De Leon**  
*Palmer Hall 210*

“The Effects of Gleevec (STI-571) on Glioblastoma  
Multiforme”

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 11:00 AM

**Krista Gonzales**  
*Palmer Hall 210*

“Sweet Nothin’: Are Carbohydrates Important in Extracellular  
Communication? Testing the Effects of Glycopeptides on the  
Morphology, Metastatic Potential and Adhesion Rates on Brain  
Tumor Cells”

**Debra Marovitch**  
*La Sierra Hall 307*

“The Workings of International Development: Grassroots  
Beginnings or Imparted Implementation”

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 6:00 PM

**Larissa House**  
*Cossentine Hall 102*

“Hidden in the Closet: Exposing  
Domestic Violence in Same-Sex Relationships”

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2:00 PM

**Zulema Ibarra**  
*Hamilton Terrace*

“America: Land of the Poor”

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, Cossentine Hall 102

**11:00 AM**  
**Adam Hori**

“The Quality of Education at the School of Business”

**11:30 AM**  
**Peace Kim**

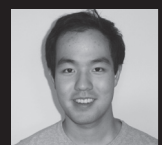
“Future Conflict Over Water in the Middle East and North Africa  
(MENA) in the Next Fifty Years is Unlikely”

**12:00 PM**  
**Rindala Obeid**

“International Students and Culture Shock:  
Longing for Belonging”

**12:30 PM**  
**Mike Tyler**

“SWAPT: The Star Wars Alternate Prequel Trilogy  
(Episode I: Converging Fates)”



# JUNIOR Scholarship Proposals

Wednesday, May 28, Cossentine Hall 106

<b>Zachary Mursic</b>	3:00 PM
<i>Plant Growth Factors in the Santa Rosa Plateau</i>	
<b>Mary Gamino</b>	3:20 PM
<i>Academic Self-Efficacy and Learning Strategies in First Year College Students</i>	
<b>Jinjutha Silpanisong</b>	3:40 PM
<i>Effect of Carbohydrate Structures on Human Glioblastoma Growth, Invasion, and Migration</i>	
<b>Julian Salome</b>	4:00 PM
<i>"From Bush to Bed-Side": Effects of Plant Extracts on Cancerous Cells</i>	
<b>Charlie Schoepflin</b>	4:15 PM
<i>Study of Rotational Energy Surfaces</i>	
<b>Break: 4:30-5:15</b>	
<b>Julie Chun</b>	5:15 PM
<i>Examination of the Market Forces that Drive Supply &amp; Demand in the Context of the Health Care Industry</i>	
<b>Jed de la Paz</b>	5:30 PM
<i>Hymn Arrangement</i>	
<b>Gift Pattanaprommas</b>	5:45 PM
<i>Genetic Substructuring in a Gecko (<i>Cyrtadactylus intermedius</i>) in the Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia</i>	
<b>Christian Bosse</b>	6:00 PM
<i>Fractal Image Compression</i>	
<b>Sergio Rubio</b>	6:15 PM
<i>The Effects of Buthionine Sulfoximine on Bone Mineralization in UMR106-01 BSP Cells</i>	
<b>Marlyn Cuenca</b>	6:30 PM
<i>Modeling the Spread of Lyme Disease</i>	
<b>Julie Muchinyi</b>	6:45 PM
<i>Examination of the Market Forces that Drive Supply &amp; Demand in the Context of the Health Care Industry</i>	



## UHDR 214: THE ARTS BY HILDA RIDERER

In UHDR 214 The Arts, we learned about the history of Avant-Garde and its meaning. In reflecting on the class, I can see that it was a truly Avant-Garde class in itself. While in most classes students are expected to sit through two hours of lecture, this class depended on the participation of the students. The majority of the course revolved around the analysis of several forms of Avant-Garde art, meaning atypical from political and experimental perspectives. Although the readings were never dull and the movies and music never ordinary, the most exciting parts of this course were the occasional field trips.

Some field trips were close to our campus, including our very own Brandstater Gallery and a small junkyard in downtown Riverside, while others consisted of countless hours stuck in traffic on the way to the worthwhile Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles.

Brandstater Gallery had an array of Avant-Garde art, but the most interesting was a 3D poster created by a group of children from a local elementary school. Several masks with many expressions revolving around the central topic of peace were created in a very creative and experimentally radical way.

Tio's Tacos in downtown Riverside, on the other hand, was a completely different experience. The whole place was randomly decorated with statues made of recycled toys. A little chapel was made entirely of beer bottles and enormous creatures were made of Barbie dolls. After a few minutes of wandering about, we all indulged in a smoothie of our choice and sat down to share our views of ingenious works of art.

Finally, the last field trip was to the MOCA. It took hours of laughter and dancing in LA traffic, but was it totally worth the time spent. While browsing the floors of MOCA, most of us were captured by the amazing sight of a real Andy Warhol worth millions of dollars.

After the many weeks of interpreting various pieces of Avant-Garde art, all the students were expected to create their own original piece. There were no guidelines nor restrictions on how to complete the piece. Thus, students were privileged with complete freedom to create whatever they chose. During our presentations, some students had paintings they created themselves, while others focused on politically radical projects of our time period.

UHDR 214 was by far one of the most fascinating Honors courses I have taken thus far. Perhaps the reason for this is not only because the class encouraged and developed an enthusiastic learning attitude toward Avant-Garde art from different times in history, but because the teaching method and projects were Avant-Garde in their own right.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

DR. DOUGLAS CLARK

### A SOPHOMORE ON JUNIORS AND SENIORS

It's near the end of my sophomore year at La Sierra University, but I want to talk about the juniors and seniors. Likely deriving from two Greek words – *sophos* (wise) and *moros* (foolish) – the designation “sophomore” just might convey mixed signals. So, to counter the potential *moros* connotations, I plan to focus on the *sophos*, and the best way to do so is to say something about what this issue of the *Honorgram* highlights – scholarship projects of the Honors Juniors and Seniors.

Honors students, I have discovered in my time as Associate Director then Director of the program, are very sophos, and grow more so with each passing year in the program. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the scholarship projects they are required to propose, normally at the end of their junior year, and present, at the end of their senior year. All the 2008 proposals and presentations are listed and described in the pages of this issue of the *Honorgram*.

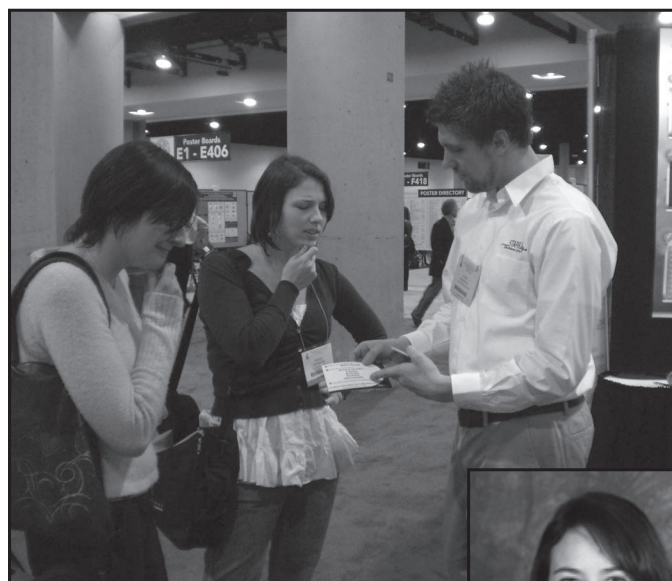
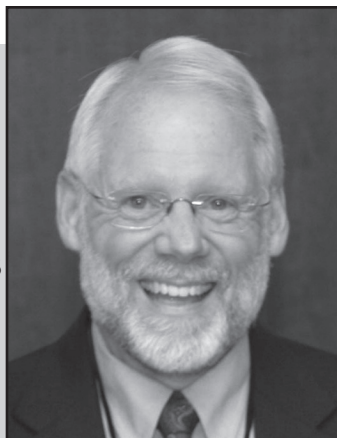
In becoming acquainted with the breadth and depth of Honors scholarship projects, readers, I hope, will be as impressed as I am with the quality of work these students produce. Some are collaborative research projects with scientists from other institutions. Some are creative works, written or presented for the first time ever. Others report on intriguing phenomena surfacing within the disciplines to which they have dedicated their education and career choices.

From the Honors Program website ([www.lasierral.edu/honors](http://www.lasierral.edu/honors)): “Students complete an Honors Scholarship Project, in which they develop an original research or creative project in collaboration with faculty that is presented publicly. Many students present their projects at professional meetings, or publish them in professional journals. For some, the project has developed into graduate specialties.”

This all grows from the statement of mission for the program, a part of which claims: “The La Sierra University Honors Program is a community that gives special attention to undergraduates of outstanding intellectual and creative ability. It brings substantial breadth and depth to their integrated experiences. The program aims to charge the imagination and enable students to recognize their own potential and responsibilities in an environment where student initiative is the guiding force.”

We are all indebted to the La Sierra University students whose research, writing and productions these presentations represent and to the faculty and other sponsors who support their work and nudge them to excel even beyond what they imagine for themselves. Especially have the coordinators of Honors scholarship projects, Drs. Gary Bradley and Andrew Howe, done yeoman service for the cause.

To avoid potential sophomoric behavior, I plan to attend as many of the proposals and presentations as possible and invite readers to do the same.



### UHNR 314: SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE FIELD TRIP

BY MARY GAMIÑO

On Friday, April 4th, my classmates and I all piled into two vans to head to San Diego for the 2008 Experimental Biology Convention, looking forward to four days of fun and learning. We had prepared for this convention in the Science and the Future class we took Winter Quarter from Drs. Jim Wilson and Dan Tinianow. During class, each of us prepared our own itinerary of lectures and exhibits we wanted to see, and picked a presenting scientist to focus on at the convention. We stayed at a hotel in Old Town San Diego, so we were given metro passes that would take us to the Convention Center and many other beautiful places in San Diego, such as the Gas Lamp District and Little Italy.

At the Convention Center, there were rooms and rooms of lectures, symposiums and workshops upstairs, and a huge open floor of exhibits and posters downstairs. It was amazing to see all the different kinds of people, like anatomists, immunologists, biochemists, and nutritionists, come together to share what they have found, while networking and building community. Additionally, I learned a lot, especially from the scientist on whom I chose to focus, Charles R. Schuster. He is a behavioral pharmacologist and in the lecture he gave, he spoke about the studies he had done on substance abuse. The studies and their findings were really interesting to me and, because I am a junior psychobiology major who still isn't sure what I want to do after college, they got me thinking about behavioral pharmacology as a possible career choice.

The trip home gave us all a chance to share our experiences gained at the conference.

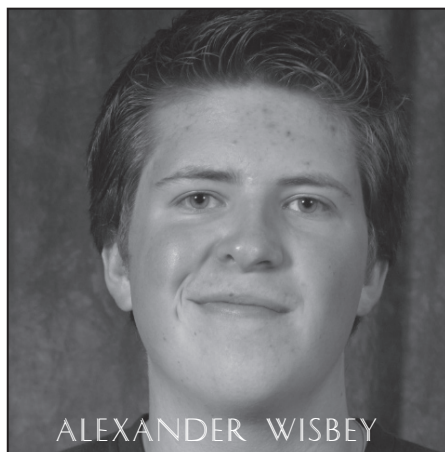


## HONORS BEACH VESPERS

On Saturday, April 26, the Student Honors Council held a beach day at Corona Del Mar. A good number of faculty and students came and spent the day enjoying each other's company, good conversation, and great food.



## FRESHMAN PERSPECTIVE



ALEXANDER WISBEY

My experience as a freshmen at La Sierra University has been an excellent one. As a student moving from the East coast, I was hit by a certain amount of culture shock. But unlike several of my moves, this new shock was in no way bad. I met the most open and friendly people here at La Sierra and I have also made closer friends in two short quarters than I had made over several years in the past. And within the Honors Program this could not be more true. The students have been everything previously described and the faculty has genuinely cared. Our classes lack the foolish kind of busy work that we should have been done with by middle school and instead I find myself in the midst of fascinating discussions on a wide range of issues. It almost comes as a shock to me now to go into a class that has no discussion, but still has that busy work.

This is not all to say that I was at first convinced that I should join Honors. I didn't want to become stuck with a group of nerds who only thought one way. And I haven't; the Honors Program has allowed me to study in amazing classes and at the same time branch out to the entire University. Honors, to my surprise, is in no way an elite club, but instead a community that is part of the whole that is La Sierra. The Honors Program has opened my eyes to what college should be—a group of students and teachers learning from each other.

## SENIOR PERSPECTIVE



ZULEMA IBARRA

As a senior leaving the honors program, I enjoy quite a chuckle when I look back at my journey and see how it's shaped my growth. I can trace most of the significant moments in my college career to the feisty yet nurturing environment of the honors community, both with students and faculty. Now that I am getting ready to wrap things up for graduation, I get to add my last touches to a portfolio of my academic and personal progress in my four years at La Sierra. Flipping through my portfolio, however, it is not difficult to see that the experiences that instigated my pivotal points of development were actually honors requirements. The community involvement lab, honors classes, and my honors scholarship project were especially enriching experiences in which I was able to comprehensively apply values and ideas I learned in the program. I feel that I am stepping out of the program having not only learned in theory, but also acted out in practice. A part of me is ready to break free and take the next step ahead after graduation, but there remains a part of me that will miss the atmosphere and integrated community I share in the Honors Program.

## FACULTY PERSPECTIVE



KRISTA MOTSCHIEDLER

This is only my second year teaching in the Honors Program, but I can already state that I feel lucky to be involved. The students are so engaged and motivated and interested that all we have to do is get them started on a topic and then get out of the way – because the learning is happening naturally. I've also particularly enjoyed that, since the Honors class I teach with Dr. Gary Bradley (UHNR 114 – Scientific Process) is a freshman level course, I have a chance to get to know students early in their time here at La Sierra. This year I have a number of students in my Organic Chemistry class who I got to know last year in UHNR 114. It's really a pleasure to have them in a class again – not only because they are great students, but also because I already have a personal connection with them. Some of them are Chemistry or Biochemistry majors, so I'll continue to have the chance to teach them and interact with them for the rest of the time they are here at LSU. The chance to have these kinds of long-term connections with outstanding students is just one of the reasons I love teaching in the Honors Program at La Sierra University.

## CLAYTON KOH ('07) SIGNS BOOK DEAL



The Honors Program is pleased to announce that Clayton Koh, 2007 Honors graduate, signed a book contract with Scholastic India for what originally was his Honors Scholarship Project. The project title – “Being a Man—Stripping Away the Stereotypes” – envisioned presentations to elementary school teachers and a children's book about how young boys can transcend mainly macho stereotypes in favor of more balanced perspectives on growing up. Drs. Winona Howe and Paul Mallery were his faculty sponsors.

The book, *I'm a Real Boy*, features Koh's own illustrations and poetry and will be published in India and distributed in English in India, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. It will be launched in Singapore at an international children's book author/illustrator convention on June 6, an event Clayton plans to attend.

In addition, as part of their National Poetry Month special, Scholastic India featured a children's poet each week of April and they have published three of Clayton's poems, one each on April 28, 29, and 30. From the publisher:

*Dear Teacher and Librarian,*

For the last three days of April, we send you poems by Clayton Koh.

Clayton Koh is an author and illustrator, but foremost, he is an elementary educator. As a half-Indian, half-Chinese man, who was born in Malaysia and raised in the U.S., Clayton brings his multi-cultural perspectives into his teaching and his writing. His book, *I'm a Real Boy*, will soon be published by Scholastic India.

# SENIOR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

## KRISTA GONZALES

After I graduate I plan on attending Ross University School of Medicine. It's going to be a big change, but I'm really looking forward to it!

## ADAM HORI

Before I get my MBA in a few years, I am planning to start building my career. I will most likely work in corporate finance, but I am still considering my options.

## LARISSA HOUSE

Have a picnic in a park with a white dress, a bunch of special people, and one amazing guy. Then after the picnic—change the world, do a few social worky things here and there, travel to foreign countries, help those around me, continue learning, build incredible memories, and go on many exciting adventures (all with the amazing guy from the picnic)!

## ZULEMA IBARRA

Next year, I will be sticking around to pour a little more love into the Honors Program, as secretary for the Honors Office. On the side, I will be planning a wedding, volunteering for a local NGO, continuing to feed my passion for learning, reading, and writing, using every opportunity possible to take advantage of my “year off” by filling it to the brim with things I've always wanted to do but never had the time, and developing a proposal for an interdisciplinary Masters program at Sonoma State University.

## PEACE KIM

After graduation, I will take the DAT (Dental Admissions Test) and complete the dental school application process.

## KEVIN DE LEON

This coming fall I will be attending medical school at Loma Linda University. During the summer, however, I will be doing research in the Center for Health Disparities at Loma Linda University.

## DEBRA MAROVITCH

After graduation I will be teaching English in Mexico for the summer, then in Korea for a year. On returning from Korea, I plan to work with the Peace Corps for 2-3 years, and then either work with an international organization or a non-governmental organization, or go to graduate school.

## RINDALA OBEID

I am applying for a permit to work for a year in the U.S., hoping to do research in the biomedical field and am also applying for medical school for the 2009-2010 school year.

## MIKE TYLER

I will be teaching English in Korea at the Korean Language Institute for the year. After that, I will probably return to the States to either work or begin working on a Masters.



# BOOK REVIEW

## *Swallow the Ocean*



BY MIKE TYLER

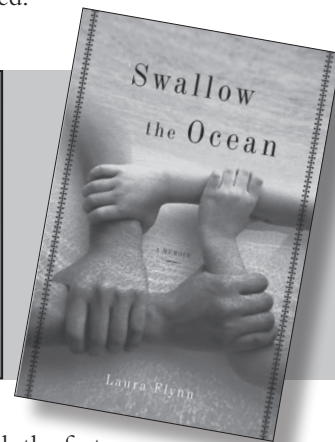
I would never write my own memoir – perhaps interesting scenes from my life, but never any over-arching, novel-length story covering my own life. Hence, opening Laura M. Flynn's *Swallow the Ocean*, I was skeptical of how this first-time novel publisher would keep me interested throughout and give her story meaning. In the end, I was satisfied; in the beginning, I was not.

Flynn has an absolutely gorgeous writing style. She shows vibrant images from her childhood as if she were a photographer looking down the lens of a stellar memory. At times, in fact, I felt as though she must have simply been flipping through old photo albums and writing the stories of each picture. Within each of Flynn's chapters, one or more of these photographs is animated, brought to life, its emotional impact on the writer transferred to the reader. She is successful in pulling the reader in, but throughout a significant portion of the book, this photo album approach to the story has its downfall as well.

As each picture is painted, especially near the beginning of the book, Flynn often leaves us wondering how the pictures are connected. The descriptions and metaphors are beautiful and compelling, but the miniature stories within the overarching story sometimes float in their own realities, waiting to be included in the general plot of the author's memoir. The transitions from picture to picture are abrupt, and many of the pictures never connect themselves at all. This leaves the book with a slow opening, difficult to dive into as Flynn sets the background to her mother's spiral into mental illness, a background with well-written images but little conflict and few hooks to keep the reader flipping through the chapters.

Often I wonder why people write memoirs at all. It seems like such a self-serving thing to do, putting intimate details of your life onto the page and expecting the general population to spend money and time walking with you through your struggles. There must be something more to it than that, surely, and in the beginning of *Swallow the Ocean*, I found myself asking that

question. I wouldn't share the story of my childhood, why should she? The obvious answer as to the purpose of Flynn's book is to relay to the public a personal tale of the effects of a paranoid schizophrenic and her daughters. In this, it is successful. While serving as educational, illuminating some of the details of the disease and how it reveals itself in a person, the book also brings a profound emotional aspect to the issue in focusing on the indirect "victims" of the disease. For this, the author is allowed her selfish motivations because for an audience to understand the true impact of this mental illness it must sympathize with the characters involved.



The book's greatest success comes with the fact that Flynn has, by the end of the story, accomplished the most basic, though difficult, quest of an author: making the reader care about the characters. It did not strike me until fifty pages from the end of the book, when Laura is finally taken from her mother's custody. At that moment, as Sally hugged her daughter and Laura willed her mother to go, I wondered, horrified, if I would ever see Sally again. Indeed, the author had made me care for this paranoid schizophrenic. Flynn accomplishes this not through her beautiful prose but through her honesty. The characters in this story were real because the author held nothing back. When a scene was fuzzy in her memory, she tells us. When the primary source of information for a section is someone other than herself, she admits it. And there is something I cannot explain in her telling of the story – in her portrayal of herself and of her parents – that indicates complete openness. It is this openness that compels us to care.

The honesty of *Swallow the Ocean* is what brings us into a 1970s broken home with a shy girl and a frighteningly ill mother. The pictures brought to life by Flynn's writing, though sometimes unnecessarily drawn out, portray her story phenomenally. The honest vignettes that fill the pages of this book are successful in connecting us with the Flynn family.

## HONORS EVENTS

**MAY 12-JUNE 13:** Senior and Junior Honors Scholarship Presentations and Proposals

**MAY 14:** Honors Spring Picnic, 5:30pm, grass area by Visual Arts Center

**JUNE 5:** Honors Senior Recognition Dinner, 6pm, California State Citrus Park

**JUNE 15:** Graduation... Congratulations Seniors!

DONATION BOX

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2. The Honors Program
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or write a check today to: La Sierra University, noting "Going Global" in the memo line and send to:

Honors Program, La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, CA 92515.

[To strengthen the development program at LSU, 5% of all gifts will be used to defray fundraising costs.]

THANK YOU! *Your donations are greatly appreciated!*

**CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED.** Interested in the *Honorgram*? If you enjoy writing, taking pictures, or you simply want to be tuned into what's what and who's who in Honors, then be a part of the Honors newsletter. Teachers and students are all welcome to participate and contributions will be greatly appreciated. E-mail [alixlopez@gmail.com](mailto:alixlopez@gmail.com) for more information.

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*Honors Office Secretary*

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*UHNR 214 Field Trip, Pictures*

J SILPANISONG  
*Pictures of UHNR 214 Field Trips*

MARY GAMIÑO  
*UHNR 314 Field Trip, Pictures*

**THE HONORS PROGRAM** began at La Sierra University in 1983. It strives to give special attention to undergraduates of outstanding intellectual and creative ability and aims to charge the imagination in an environment where student initiative is the guiding force. Students are given the opportunity to recognize their potential through encouragement, discussion and interaction. The overall objectives of the program are focused on the La Sierra University mission  
*"to Seek, to Know, to Serve..."*

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HONORGRAM 8



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