



HONOR GRAM



La Sierra
UNIVERSITY

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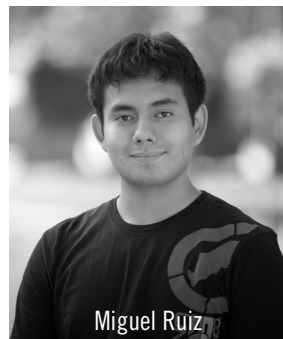
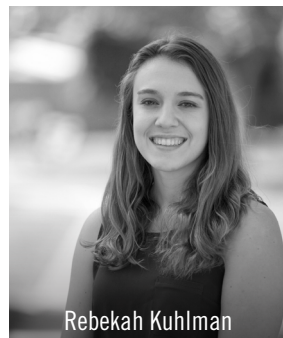
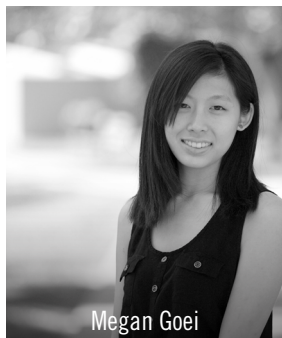
Fall Quarter 2015



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Meet the new FRESHMEN



A Fresh Perspective

By *Alejandrina Calvillo*

Typically people say that the road from high school to college is going to be great, but which meaning of great do they mean? Great meaning as in a huge change? A fun change? An epiphany moment kind of change? From my experience of... three weeks on a university campus, I would say that all of those definitions are correct.

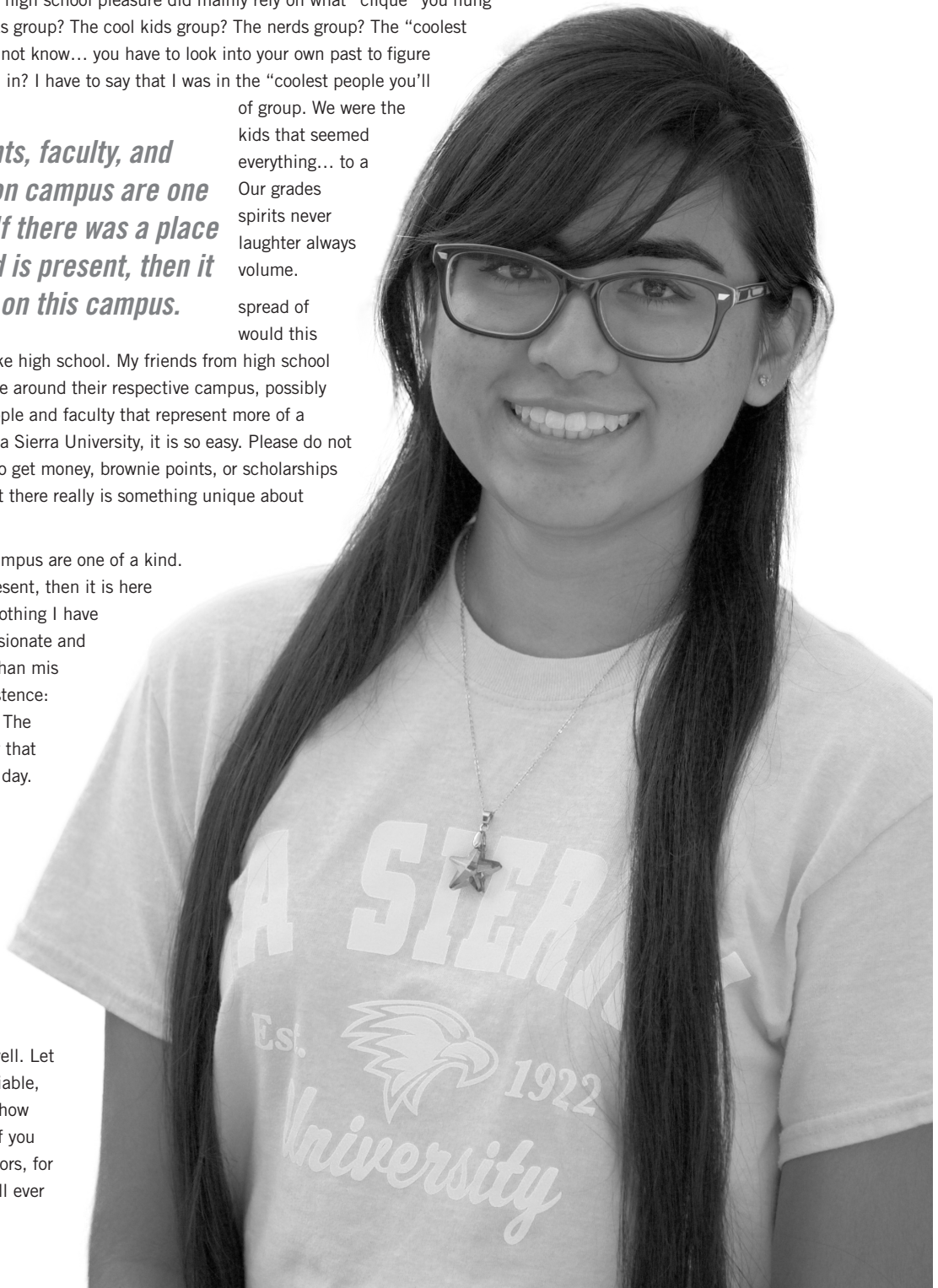
High school was a complete enjoyment to me. I mean, how could a girl, a social butterfly as I am, be bored amongst 2400 students? I guess the high school pleasure did mainly rely on what “clique” you hung out with. Were you in the varsity jocks group? The cool kids group? The nerds group? The “coolest people you’ll ever meet” group? I do not know... you have to look into your own past to figure that one out. Me... What group was I in? I have to say that I was in the “coolest people you’ll ever meet” kind of group. We were the misfits/chill/smart kids that seemed to care about everything... to a proper balance. Our grades were high, our spirits never low and our laughter always on maximum volume.

Students, faculty, and mentors on campus are one of a kind. If there was a place where God is present, then it is here on this campus.

College... a new spread of people. What would this be like? Well... it surely is nothing like high school. My friends from high school do not tell me much about the people around their respective campus, possibly because it is hard to get to know people and faculty that represent more of a number, than an individual. Yet, at La Sierra University, it is so easy. Please do not get me wrong, I am not writing this to get money, brownie points, or scholarships (though brownies would be nice), but there really is something unique about the La Sierra experience.

Students, faculty, and mentors on campus are one of a kind. If there was a place where God is present, then it is here on this campus. The students, like nothing I have experienced before: mature, compassionate and outgoing. The faculty, adults (other than mis padres) that actually care for my existence: dedicated, motivational, and willing. The mentors, all the students and faculty that I look up to, and hope to be like one day. Everyone here has a flame inside of them, and each one has their own warm fire to set ablaze to light up the world and make it a better place.

Everyone is so amazing, especially the honors kids (and I am not just saying that). I live in South Hall, so I am blessed to get to know the honors students pretty well. Let me sum them up in three words: amiable, sanguine, and awesome! They know how to make you feel part of the family. If you ever need a best friend, come to honors, for these truly are the “coolest kids you’ll ever meet.”



Going Global HONORS VISITS SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA



KUALA LUMPUR

From Penang we took a train to Kuala Lumpur – the capital of Malaysia – and here we stayed right at China town that allowed the students to soak in the Malaysian street shopping experience. Two days later we took a bus back to Singapore, with a one-day stop over in Malacca – a UN Heritage city colonized by the Portuguese, Dutch and British from 1500. Here the students took their final Examination at the 23rd floor of the Swiss Garden Hotel with a fantastic view of the city. The next morning we boarded the bus for the four-hour trip back to Singapore to spend the last night in Asia, before embarking on the flight back to Los Angeles the following morning.

REFLECTION

I began this year’s trip with some concern, there were two students (who won’t be named) I was nervous about because they were a little high-spirited, and I misjudged them to some extent. So I was pleasantly surprised as the group was great, they were very punctual and followed the schedule very closely. My favorite part of the trip was visiting Sarawak – particularly Kuching, as it is my birthplace; I have most of my family there and all of us visited my brother’s home for a meal, and many of my other family members joined in the potluck for the group.

By: Dr. John Perumal – Faculty

Malaysia and Singapore have three main groups of immigrants: the Malays, the Indians, and the Chinese. Singapore is a city-state at the southern tip of West Malaysia and is connected by a one-mile bridge. When Malaysia was formed in 1963 Singapore was a state in Malaysia, but a year later it became an independent country. Malaysia now include 13 states, nine states in the mainland Malaya generally referred to as West Malaysia, and the remaining two (Sabah & Sarawak) in the Island of Borneo, referred to as East Malaysia. Several indigenous groups are also domiciled here, which the students would get to know about as part of our trip.

SINGAPORE

The UNHR 232 (Global Cultures in Context: International Experience) class began with a three-day tour of Singapore where the group visited a Malay heritage center, a “mixed racial marriage” (Paranakan) museum, the famous Gardens by the Bay, a walk through Chinatown, and several opportunities at experiencing the variety of cuisines in Singapore.

JOHOR BAHRU AND KUCHING

We then proceeded by land to the Southern-most city in West Malaysia, Johor Bahru, where we visited a Sikh Temple, a Hindu temple and experienced eating with our hands using banana leaf as a plate at an Indian restaurant. The following day we flew from Johor Bahru to Kuching, the state capital of Sarawak, a Malaysian state in Borneo. Here the students had further exposure to the Chinese, Malay, Indian and several indigenous tribes especially the Ibans, who used to be the “headhunters” of Borneo.

THE LONGHOUSE

After four days in Kuching we took an express boat and went to Sarikei, a town near the longhouse where the Ibans lived and we spent two days living in the longhouse. Here the students got to experience life in a typical longhouse, which included bathing in the river and sleeping on the floor in a communal hall. They also went out to the pepper fields and worked with the locals.

PENANG

From there we flew to Penang for another 4 days of cultural experience enjoying the foods, visiting Chinese-Buddhist temples, and a floating Mosque, where Sandra sang the Hallelujah chorus in the main dome.



New Culture NEW EXPERIENCES

Sandra Fermin – Junior Honors Student & Music Major

“I hope I packed lightly and efficiently. All in all, I can’t stop but think on how this trip will be like. Am I nervous, you ask? Uh yes! But to be honest, I’m also super excited. I’m sure it will be quite the experience.” These were some of the

basically everything there was incredibly cheap! One American dollar could buy you a decent sized meal. One of the most memorable eating experiences involved eating Indian food traditionally, meaning without using utensils.

structure, and are organized by a leader/chief. Here is where I believe we experienced the most culture. We were welcomed into people’s homes, bathed in a river, worked in the fields, ate their local fruits, including the famous durian, and learned and performed their traditional dances. We were able to experience the culture, and were able to respect and adapt to them as much as we could. We also bonded as group, and in some ways, became a family.



first words shared on my blog for the trip with the Honors Program that I knew would impact the way I see the world today. I went with some members of this year’s Junior and Senior classes, and our professor Dr. John Perumal. Our destinations: Singapore and Malaysia.

The flight of 16 hours included a layover at Tokyo to reach our first destination, Singapore. Once we arrived in Singapore, the first thing that caught our attention was the amount of humidity. This aside, we saw that Singapore was like a tropical version of America. Except for the fact that we couldn’t eat in certain places or we would be fined – their regulations were on another level.

In my opinion, some of our best experiences happened in Malaysia. Food was an adventure, not to mention the fact that the food and

We also visited many of the temples around Malaysia to watch their rituals and services. We visited many Buddhist and Hindu temples, each with their own distinct characteristics. We got to ask questions and learn about the people who practiced these beliefs. Due to Ramadan and

“one of the best experiences in Malaysia was spending time in the SDA Long House. A Malaysian longhouse community is a group of people who decide live together in a multifamily structure, and are organized by a leader/chief. “

reconstruction, most the Mosques we visited were closed so we only got in to two of them. One of the Mosques we did manage to enter was located near the beach, and had great acoustics. Let’s just say a little singing happened.

Yet, one of the best experiences in Malaysia was spending time in the SDA Long House. A Malaysian longhouse community is a group of people who decide live together in a multifamily

The memories my friends and I made were abundant, some of which aren’t documented, and are left only in my memories. My expectations were definitely met above and surpassed. When I came back, I felt I was a completely changed person. I felt that I was taken from my comfort

zone, only to find I was alright with it. It made me realize that there is so much more to the world than just the United States. I now feel that traveling the world at this time of my life

is necessary. Our group received the opportunity to experience Malaysia not only as tourists, but also for a time, as locals. I would like to thank the Honors Program for this opportunity it gave us to explore these countries. This will be one of the memories I made at La Sierra that I’ll cherish for the rest of my life.

Getting to know DR. BANKS-KRIKSHAM



Joining our faculty this quarter is the lovely Dr. Erin Banks-Kirkham. Dr. Banks grew up in Berrien Springs, MI. She recently moved to Southern California, with her husband and daughter, from Kettering College in Dayton, Ohio, where she had lived for four years. Currently teaching UHNR 201: Seminar in Rhetoric, Dr. Banks is fond of fostering conversations and challenging her students to expand their paradigms.

What are your academic interests?

The main focus of my research has been historical feminist rhetoric. My dissertation looked at 1980 Reagan campaign for president and the efforts made to appeal to female voters. I like looking through archives and finding lost voices, especially the voices of people society has traditionally undervalued or ignored. Additionally, as a writing teacher, I'm also interested in how I can continually improve my own pedagogy to more effectively help my students.

Which colleges did you attend?

I spent my first year and a half of college at Pacific Union College. I was an elementary education major but a reluctant one, so I took a quarter off and worked for a florist in my hometown, hoping to figure out what I wanted to do. I went to Andrews University for that spring quarter with the intention of returning to PUC the following fall, but I took an advanced comp course that changed everything. I decided to stay at Andrews because of their English department and ended up majoring in English with an emphasis

in writing. For graduate school, I went to Eastern Michigan University for my M.A., and Ball State University in Indiana for my Ph.D.

What is the best advice you obtained in college?

“Find a mentor.” Students sometimes don't realize how much their professors have to offer them. Since I got to know many of my English professors as an undergrad, I was able to turn to them many times after graduating for advice, recommendation letters, and words of encouragement. I can honestly say I wouldn't have made it without my professors and their mentorship.

Could you tell us a funny and/or interesting anecdote about your time as an undergraduate student?

As an undergrad at Andrews, I wrote a weekly column for the student newspaper. I would often write about dating, since it was a hotly discussed topic in the girl's dorm. Apparently, my opinions weren't always well received by the male students. More than once, I found copies of my column under the windshield wiper of my car with strategic highlighting and commentary written in the margins. It was awesome. That's how I knew I was doing something right.

Any books or reads you would recommend to an honors student?

I always recommend students read Anne Lamott. Her writing is beautifully crafted, real, and thought provoking. I also read a lot of fiction, especially historical fiction. Right now I'm reading *Euphoria* by Lily King. It's loosely based on the life of Margaret Mead. I've enjoyed learning about anthropological research while reading a really interesting story.

What was your favorite part of being a member of the Honors Faculty this quarter?

My favorite part of being a member of the Honors Faculty has been teaching Seminar in Rhetoric this quarter and getting to know my students. We've been working on their worldview papers this quarter. As part of the writing process, each student went over his or her essay with me one-on-one and got some feedback. Honestly, I think I got more out these conferences than they did. I was truly moved by their stories and inspired by their dedication to their studies, to their families, and to Christ.



Meet the Honors House RAs & ARAs

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS



Hey! I'm Royce Olarte and I'm the Men's RA at South Hall. I'm a math major and I'm also pursuing my Secondary Teaching Credentials here at La Sierra. I'm currently a junior and my long term goals are to pursue a Masters and Ph.D in Mathematics Education and eventually be a university professor. I hope to one day research how early mathematics logic and analysis

are taught in middle school and high school institutions. Here at La Sierra University, I am extremely involved with music, so I'm a member of Wind Ensemble, Chamber Singers, and I am one of the praise team leaders on campus. Since my first year here, music has been an integral part of my worship experience, and it's been a way for me to destress! Outside of school, I love to play volleyball, travel and just be outdoors. Some of my favorite activities are hiking and kayaking, and the next place that I'm looking forward to visiting is Alaska. Other than academics, music, and traveling, my time is usually spent hanging out with my friends, watching Arrow and The Walking Dead, and of course, trying to find time to take a nap



You know it's funny, when someone asks me to talk about myself I have no idea what to say but when someone doesn't ask and is trying to slyly slip away before being caught up in a long and majorly one-sided conversation, I generally find I can talk for hours! I guess you could say I am an extroverted introvert, if that really is a thing. I love hanging out with friends,

talking to random people about things I notice we have in common (like our strong fondness for elephants and sitting by a fire on a drizzly day), and I absolutely love going on adventures! I am thrilled by the prospect of traveling to a new place or visiting an old favorite and have made it my personal goal to get a stamp in every page of my passport. A few key things define me as an individual, which generally all come back to the same point; I am a history nerd and proud of it! I genuinely love researching historical events, especially if the British were in anyway involved in said events. I love tea, fog, rain, dark chocolate, an exceptionally juicy novel and any combination of those things. Also if the novel can be set in 1920s Great Britain, then that would be the best day ever! My name is Nikki Godfrey, I am a junior history major, and I am the women's RA for the 2015-2016 school.

ASSISTANT RESIDENT ASSISTANTS



Hello! I am Syria Armenta and this is my first year as the Assistant to the Women's Resident Assistant for South Hall. I'm a Junior majoring in Biomedical Sciences as well as studying legal studies as a minor. I am very excited to be part of the Residential team this year and hope to give back the same encouragement and assistance I was given by the previous RAs

and ARAs while living in South Hall for the past two years. I meet my very good friends while living in South Hall and hope current residents also find South Hall as a place to study and form lifelong relationships. Outside of the dorm, I am a part of VOP, or Voices of Praise, which is a gospel singing group on campus, officer of the Biology Club Tri-Beta, and part of the Latinos United from Nations Abroad club or LUNA. My hometown is in Lancaster, California and whenever I get the chance to go home I enjoy hiking and running with my mom and sister. I am an avid reader who can't get enough of Tolstoy and Nabokov and aspire to attend medical school and become an osteopathic physician. As part of the women's RA team, I am optimistic for what lies ahead for the dorm and for the residents who will be returning for another year and those joining us for the first time.



Hi. My name is Crescencio Altamirano. I am the men's Assistant RA. This is my second year in the Honors Program, however I am a third year Accounting and Finance major, and legal studies minor. I aspire to practice law, so that I can one day help the poor. Sadly, some people do not have the resources to hire a decent attorney, and, these same people are then

oppressed by our legal situation. Christopher Johnston, head council of LLUMC, once said that "The greatest thing an attorney may do is to protect the constitution and fight for civil right." While I do believe this to be true, especially in the day and age where government and other for profit firms profit off our meta data, I also believe that helping the poor surmounts any actions an attorney at law may ever do. In my free time between pursuing my law career, studying and working, I also enjoy playing video games (my current favorite is Fallout 4), watching satirical pundits on Comedy Central, listening to NPR, getting into heated political debates, and playing classical guitar. As an ARA, I hope to help foster the awesome Honors community here in South Hall

Fall Events

BRING YOUR OWN PILLOW (BOP)

South Hall Lounge—October 3rd at 7pm

In the first event of the quarter, students met in South Hall with piles of pillows, blankets and stuffed animals for a night of fun. First, the students played games and got to know each other a little better, then they went on to lounging and watching movies.

FLOATING THROUGH

Fall South Hall Porch October—15th at 12:30 pm

The Honors Council welcomed fall quarter with free soda and ice cream for the entire campus. Served on the South Hall porch, there were root beer floats, Fanta floats, chocolate chip ice cream, and a variety of sodas. Students stopped by from all over campus just to get a cup.

FALL PIZZA VESPERS

Motschieder's Residence—October 23rd at 5pm

The Annual Fall Pizza Vespers were again held at the Motschieder's beautiful home this year. As one of the first events of the fall, the pizza vespers give students and faculty a chance to connect and get to know each other better. We ate pizzas, played games, and enjoyed a wonderful talk by Dr. Webster.



FAMILY THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

South Hall Lounge—November 19th at 6pm

It has become a tradition for us to take a break from studying on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, and get together for food and fellowship. This year was no exception. Students, staff, and faculty gathered in the Lounge of South Hall and enjoyed homemade dinners and desserts. It was a huge success with students, faculty, and staff enjoying the delicious homemade meals.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

South Hall Lobby—December 3rd at 8pm

To ring in the Christmas cheer, council hosted the an Honors Christmas Party where faculty, staff and students could get together, celebrate and have a little fun. The night kicked off with a gingerbread house building contest, the Freshmen winning the prize for this year. After gingerbread house building, the students sang karaoke and played trivia games until the night was over.



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Interested in the Honorgram? If you enjoy writing, taking pictures, or drawing, become a part of the Honors Newsletter! We love to showcase talent, and your artistic contributions to this publication will give your résumé a boost. Contact the Honors office in South Hall for more information.

The Honors Program began at La Sierra University in 1971. 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 if the program are focused on the La Sierra University mission: "to Seek Truth, to Know God and Ourselves, to Serve Others."

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 contact us: honors@lasierra.edu

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