



HONOR GRAM

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

FALL QUARTER 2008



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

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From the Director

THREE CUPS

On my flight home from the Middle East this summer, at the end of a productive season of archaeology in Jordan, I was able for the first time to open a new book in my travel collection, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. I became so impressed with the book that I decided to require it of the entering class of Honors freshman, a bumper crop of well qualified students ready to take on the world.

Three Cups of Tea, for those who have yet to experience the pleasure of reading it, recounts the story of Greg Mortenson, whose failed attempt to scale K2, the second tallest mountain in the world, led to his being rescued by villagers in Pakistan and to his redirecting his life to one of extraordinary altruism. His revised goals? To help bring about peace in a troubled region of the globe . . . one girls' school at a time. Words fail me in expressing how impressed I became with this life lived well, this book written exquisitely, the enormous potential of this story for my class. I have even taken the unprecedented step of requiring the book of last spring's Honors graduate, Debra Marovitch, who is now teaching English in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The book was made for the Honors Program at La Sierra. If we want our

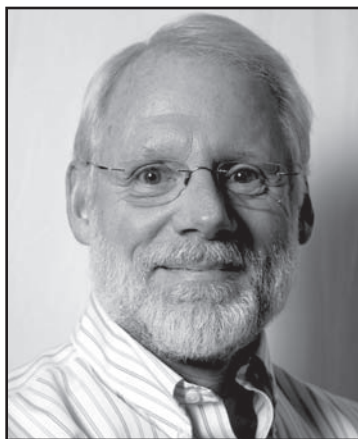
students to know something about current events, why not Pakistan and Afghanistan, in the news more these days than Iraq? If we hope for our students to grapple with issues of war and peace-making, why not in the extended Middle East? If we are looking

for ways to nudge students toward global awareness, why not this seemingly inhospitable region of mountain villages? If we intend to instill in our students a sense of purpose, an altruistic idealism, a commitment to the welfare of others, why not this story?

If a sense of community is important to us, why not the notion set out as the reason for the book's title: according to the Pakistani chief of

Korphe Village, Haji Ali, "Here (in Pakistan and Afghanistan), we drink three cups of tea to do business; the first you are a stranger, the second you become a friend, and the third, you join our family." It's as if Mortenson and Relin wrote the book specifically for this class. It's got La Sierra and Honors written all over it.

Members of the new freshman class have begun their journey into the Honors Program, a journey intentionally designed to guide them toward acquaintance with the world around us, curiosity about all that surrounds us, peace and justice for all people, service to the global community of which we are a part.



AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

By Suzanne Mallery, Honors Faculty

In the summer of 2008, students from the Global Cultures in Context class were in for a new experience. Eleven students traveled to Berlin and Turkey with Drs. Suzanne and Paul Mallery to explore the lives of Turkish Muslims in several different contexts. In addition to seeing the sites and being

immersed in German and Turkish culture, one of the goals of the course was for students to have the opportunity to meet ordinary people and talk with them about their experiences, opinions, and values. We were not disappointed. The students reached out beyond their ordinary comfort zones to make new friends and understand differences and in the process demolished stereotypes and prejudices about Muslims and the Middle East. “It was the single most amazing experience of my life” declared Jasmine Silva, upon returning home.

In Germany we visited a Turkish mosque where Linnea and Nicolette, two young German women, helped us understand the Muslim prayer forms and symbolism of the mosque as well as some of the problems facing both Turkish immigrants in Germany and Germans who convert to Islam. We also explored the history of ethnic and political conflict in Germany, visiting the Berlin Wall, the Jewish Museum, and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

Most of our time in Turkey was during Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting during daylight hours, which caused many of us to reflect upon our own devotion. We shared in breaking the fast with Turkish college students and woke up before dawn when the Ramadan drummers marched through the streets, calling the faithful to their last chance for food and drink before they endured a long hot summer day without water. We took in the joyous evening atmosphere as families strolled in the streets and thronged the mosques after breaking the fast.



(Top) Chelsea and Niiang riding a camel in Cappadocia.



(Below, left) Michelle, Katie, Meagan, Chelsea, and Ramona on a ferry in Istanbul.



(Above) La Sierra's Honors students (and Paul and Suzanne Mallery's two children) stand in front of the Library of Celsus at Ephesus.



(Top Right) Niiang and one of our hosts at the mosque in Berlin. The host is showing Niiang how to hold her hands for the start of the prayer.



(Below right) Sultanhani Caravanseray along the Silk Route in Turkey. This photo was taken from the top of the mosque in the Caravanseray, looking down at Alex and Leslie.

We also heard the stories from a variety of people, giving us a more nuanced impression of Turkey than we could ever get by reading a book. We talked with a Kurdish man who had been beaten by police after being mistaken for a suspected terrorist, and cried with him over the suffering of friends and relatives. We discussed politics with secular Turks who fear that their nation will be overrun by Islamists and forced into the "Dark Ages." And we spent time with Muslims who expressed frustration at strict restrictions on Muslim religious expression, such as a ban on headscarves in the secular Republic of Turkey, despite a population that is 99.8% Muslim.

Ramona Bahnam described the trip as an "eye-opening

experience" because "we were not a typical tour group from the US. We actually got to live and mingle with the Turks and Germans." Among the new experiences for many of us were sampling ayran (Turkish sour yogurt drink), hearing the call to prayer five times a day, visiting a family in a former pigeon house carved out of volcanic rock, getting used to using a "squatty potty," learning some Turkish, wading in a marshmallow castle (calcium carbonate deposits forming incredible structures), climbing around in 1700-year-old cave churches, and developing the dexterity to keep our headscarves firmly in place while we craned our necks to gape at magnificent mosque ceilings. Many of us share Jasmine Silva's sentiment, "I will remember this summer forever."

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Funding comes from:

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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!*

MEET THE SOUTH HALL RA'S

Xander Legaspi

Xander Legaspi was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He is a senior and will be transferring to Loma Linda University for the Physical Therapy program. Xander is an active participant in various music-affiliated activities on campus. He sings as a University Worship praise leader, plays as a percussionist for the University Wind Ensemble, and sings in various small groups just for fun. He is also the director for the spring musical event, "A Night Over Broadway." He has served and currently serves as the director, co-composer and performer for the past three years. This year, Xander hopes to go out with a bang in all his activities, especially this spring for his last musical production. Aside from being a director for the musical, he absolutely loves being an RA for South Hall and calls this year's residents, "the coolest residents on campus."



Mary Gamiño

Greetings from the Women's RA of South Hall! Being an RA has been one of my favorite jobs, especially since I love being involved in the Honors Program and its community. I have had the privilege of having this job for three years, and will be sad to give it up when I hopefully graduate this year with a B.S. in Psychobiology. In addition to working on my degree, this year I will also be working on my honors project, participating in psychology events, completing an internship, and getting married in March to a graduate of our Honors Program. Additionally, I am the Student Advisor in the Honors Office, so if you have any questions about your classes, stop by so we can talk about it. After I graduate I plan to continue my education by earning a Ph.D. in psychology at a nearby university such as Loma Linda or Claremont. And that's me in few sentences.

P.S. I love the way it smells after it rains and I hate bugs.



HONORS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Honors Community Involvement Projects are an attempt to encourage students to engage in their communities to transform and build them with integrity, courage, openness, and compassion; to charge students' imaginations as they recognize their own social responsibilities; to facilitate students as they begin developing their worldviews and value systems that will sustain this engagement; and to develop the potential to reach the highest levels of leadership, becoming the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

When Royal Cookies Go Crazy

Maryana Gamiño, Katherine Skoretz

"When Royal Cookies Go Crazy" was the name of the after school drama club we started in McAuliffe Elementary School's Half-Time program. Our goals were to make the drama club sustainable, by providing a curriculum and volunteers from a service-learning class at La Sierra University, and to enhance children's self-confidence, creativity, and sense of community. To achieve these goals we worked with the director of the McAuliffe's Half-Time program to create a prototype drama club that met once a week and culminated in a performance of Rumpelstiltskin. We created and administered surveys to measure changes in the children's self-confidence, creativity, and sense of community. They showed slight improvements in self-confidence. Community Partners: McAuliffe Elementary Half-Time Program, Carmen Phillips High School





Introduction to Career and Future Opportunities

Zach Mursic, Sergio Rubio

This project is the result of an effort to help educate young high school students as to what kinds of opportunities are available to them after graduation, with specific focus on the benefits of a college education.

Each week the students are presented with a different academic discipline that is related to their current course work and shown how their current school work leads to these interesting careers. The students' questions about how to prepare for college and what it is like are also answered to provide them with a clearer understanding of what is expected of them now and in the future. Community Partners: La Sierra Academy, Michael Tomas



Youth Club Development

Marlyn Cuenca, Juliana Muchinyi, Valitsinee Pattanaprommas

The project involved exposing middle school students to different aspects (social, academic, financial, extra-curriculum activities, etc.) of college-level institutions. We planned and prepared a field trip to La Sierra University, where students had the chance to grasp hands-on experiences. The students were educated on various career paths and the educational level each career demands.

Our emphasis during the field trip was to introduce the students to the science fields via demonstration of the practical aspects of science. After these efforts, the students are motivated and encouraged to become successful in their career field. Community Partners: Prime Time Afterschool, Mary Rogers



LSU Biodiesel Initiative

Christian Bosse, Julián Salomé, Charles Schoepflin

Our project sought to better our immediate community by providing the means to take advantage of a renewable source of energy. Essentially, the idea was facilitate the use of old oil discarded by restaurants by way of a Biodiesel Station, so that people in the community could power their diesel vehicles.

Our project was aimed at taking the first steps through the administrative and legal processes necessary to realize this goal. We sought to raise awareness on campus with students, professors, and administrators. Furthermore, we found out what was needed from the city and got advice from others who already have successful endeavors similar to ours. It is our hope that our attempt at taking the first few steps motivates others, so that someday this project will gain more momentum and come to fruition. Community Partners: GIVE, LA Biodiesel, Dr. Sam Huang



Solar Power

Jed delaPaz, Alexander Legaspi

This presentation revisits the year-long solar initiative project. The idea of this project came from rising concerns of energy consumption and costs in the Price Science Complex. With the help and support of Dr. Greer and Green Institute of Village Empowerment representative Ryan Bullard, alternative energy through solar power was researched, the consumption and costs of energy usage on campus were investigated and graphed, and environmental awareness was brought on campus. Community Partners: SIFE, Ryan Bollard

HONORS FACULTY



DR. PAUL MALLERY



DR. GARY BRADLEY



DR. GARY CHARTIER



DR. SUZANNE MALLERY



DR. DOUG CLARK



DR. JOHN JONES



DR. WONIL KIM



DR. KRISTA MOTSCHIEDLER



ANDREW HOWE



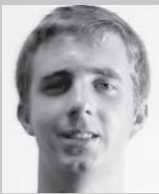
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DR. JAMES WILSON



SAMANTHA BROOKS



HAYDEN CALE



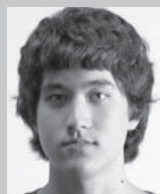
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EDWIN CHRISTIAN



DAVID RYAN HARRIS



ALEXANDER HIRATA



KELLI KAM



HEATHER KIM



ARIEL LOREDO



MYRON LOZANO



SELAMAWIT MELESE



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NATALIE SAYEGH



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VICTOR-DEAN TANGLAO



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NOLAN VONESCH



JOSHUA YAP

FRESHMAN HONORS STUDENTS



NIKKI ANTHONY



REBECCA BARCEOLO



ZACHARY JAGGERS



CHELSEA JOHNSON



MICHELLE LUMBANI
GAOL



ALAN MALAGUIT



BRANDON MCCOWAN



MEGAN MILLER



MIANG MUNG



LESLIE MUTUKU



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ALEXANDER REIMANN



IVAN RYBKIN



JENNIFER SALVADOR



JASMINE SILVA



CHRISTINA THOMPSON



ALEXANDER WISBEY

SOPHOMORE HONORS STUDENTS



RAMONA BAHNAM



MELISEANNA GIBBONS



ALEXANDRA LOPEZ



FERN NELSON



HILDA RIDERER



JINIUTHA SILPANISONG



KAROLYNA SUAREZ



CIARA TALBOT



ROBERT WALKER



CANTY WANG

JUNIOR HONORS STUDENTS



CHRISTIAN BOSSE



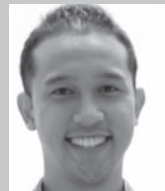
GIANINA CARLOS



JULIE CHUN



MARLYN CUENCA



JED DE LA PAZ



MARY GAMINO



XANDER LEGASPI



NELLY MONTOYA



JULIANA MUCHINI



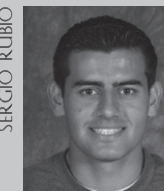
ZACHARY MURSIĆ



AMANDA O'REILLY



GIFT PATTANAPROMMAS



SERGIO RUBIO



JULIAN SALOME



CHARLES SCHOEPLIN



KASSY SKORETZ



RUTH SMITH

SENIOR HONORS STUDENTS



On October 29, 2008, the Honors Student Council held a dessert hour at 5:30pm for the Honors Program students and faculty. The theme was "Pies, Pumpkins, and Painting." Look out for more dessert hours to be held in the lobby of South Hall and for more upcoming events!

HONORS EVENTS

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 welcomed to participate and contributions will be greatly appreciated. E-mail alixlopez@gmail.com for more information.

ALEXANDRA LOPEZ
Honorgram Editor

DOUGLAS CLARK
Honors Program Director

SUZANNE MALLERY
Community Involvement information

RAMONA BAHNAM
Honors Student

XANDER LEGASPI
Men's RA

MARY GAMINO
Women's RA

THE HONORS PROGRAM at La Sierra University 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..."

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
Honors Program
4500 Riverwalk Pkwy.
Riverside, CA 92515
951.785.2310
www.lasierra.edu/honors

CONTRIBUTORS