



Honors is more than sticking your nose in a book. During this fall quarter, honors students enjoyed an outing to Corona del Mar Beach (above right, right). Later in October they met for dessert and creative artistry with pumpkins in the South Hall lobby (above left).



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. Not only will it look good on your resumé, your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

ALEXANDRA LOPEZ
LESLIE MUTUKU
Honorgram Editors

DR. DOUGLAS CLARK
Honors Program Director

PAUL MALLERY
Community Involvement Information

LESLIE MUTUKU
STUDENTS ON TURKEY TRIP
International Experience Photos

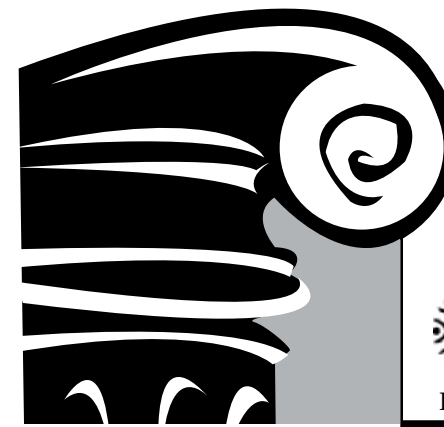
LARRY BECKER
Layout

CONTRIBUTORS

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 students 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



HONORGRAM

La Sierra UNIVERSITY
HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

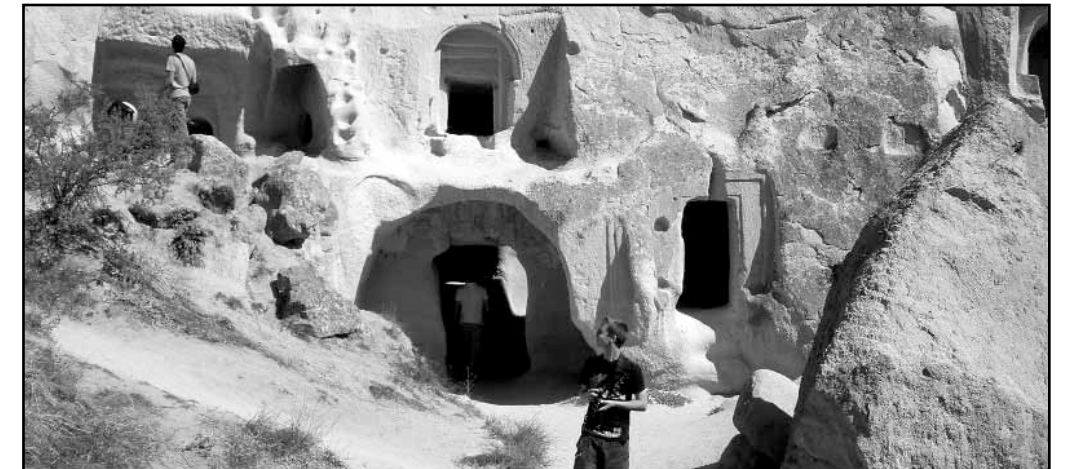
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THE HONORGRAM

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



Honors students in Cappadocia (central Turkey) climbing over houses carved into stone

MINDING OUR STEP

by Juan A. Herrera

This summer, along with a dozen other Honors students, I was given the opportunity to observe and experience first hand the Turkish culture. Having previously studied about this fascinating country's history, ethnic groups, and primary religious tradition, I found this incredible experience even better. However, although learning about Turkey in a classroom here at La Sierra University was very interesting and definitely worthwhile, traveling to Turkey and observing its culture first-hand was by far much more fascinating.

This experience, apart from being a wonderful opportunity to get to know a beautiful country and its culture, became also a great occasion for me to get to know myself. Being exposed to a different culture, to a different religion, and to a different way of life was more than just new knowledge; it was a unique opportunity to look at myself. Louis de Bèrnieres explained this concept with simple and candid words in his book *Birds without Wings* by writing that, without some variety in our lives, "we forget how to look at others and see ourselves." In other words, learning from another culture and witnessing a different

lifestyle gave me the opportunity to get to know myself, to meditate about where I am and where I'm going.

Going about life without stopping to reflect on where one is headed can lead to a terrible stagnation. Continuing along the same path without reflecting about each step could easily twist what was once a perfectly straight trail into a never-ending circle. This is easily visible, for instance, in the life of those who wander from one day to the next without goals or ambitions, without knowing where they are and where they're headed. It's not about changing roads or ways, its about meditating and observing one's steps in order to determine if we are going in the direction we deem best.

Fortunately, the fantastic experience my group and I had in Turkey observing its wonderful culture, way of life, and primary religious tradition, Islam, was a great opportunity to get to know a little bit more about ourselves. Never mind comparisons, stereotypes, or judgments, just witnessing

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HONORS TRIP

Continued from page 1

what would seem like a completely different world is enough to astonish and to open anyone's eyes wide enough to appreciate variety. This diversity of ethnicities, religions, lifestyles, and overall context, helped me become aware of the steps I'm taking in my own life. More than only helping me learn about Turkey and about Turkish culture, as I previously mentioned, Turkey granted me the opportunity to view myself through them.

Observing Turkish lifestyle helped me learn a little bit more about my own way of life by reflecting on the details that characterize theirs. The kindness and hospitality of Turkish men and women, for instance, gave me a different perspective with which to view how kind and gentle I am with my own guests. Friendly and affectionate greetings also made me think about how I welcome my own family and friends. These simple and everyday events helped me reflect about myself and meditate about where I am. Achieving this inward look at myself gave me the opportunity to think about the future, and to consider where I'm headed.

Reflecting on my present and thinking about the future were certainly two of my most important accomplishments this summer in Turkey. Granted, it's not necessary to travel the world to accomplish a profound view of oneself; however, I must admit that the diversity that I witnessed in Turkey was more than enough to do the job several times over. This wonderful and outstanding experience in Turkey helped me learn about myself, to think and meditate about my own personal and religious life, and to reflect on how I can become a better person. In other words, the variety I witnessed, as Bernieres wrote, reminded me how to observe others and how to see myself.



Alex Hirata and Brandon McCown take a break from their travels by sneaking in a workout on these outdoor exercise machines.



La Sierra University Honors students enjoy traveling via ferry on the Golden Horn in Istanbul.

MEET THE RA'S OF SOUTH HALL

Alexander Wisbey

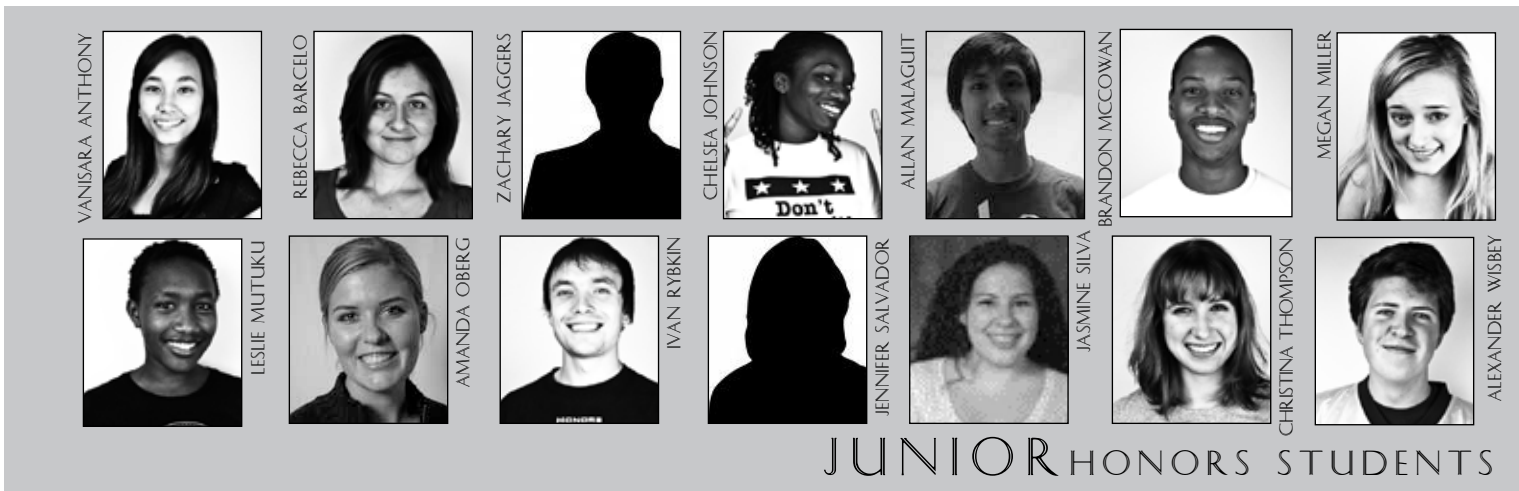
Alexander Wisbey has lived all across North America, but he still considers himself to be from Washington D.C. He is a third-year Business and History double major and he finds himself involved in more things on campus than he originally planned for. Alex has served in numerous capacities on campus ranging from Judicial Senator of the Year for two years to the student representative on the Honors Council. Alex is a diehard Redskins fan, although he is somewhat embarrassed to admit it this season. He enjoys science fiction in various media and



is particularly fond of Star Wars. About the dorm, he says, "It would be impossible to find a better group of friends living and studying together. It is the best kind of fraternity."

Meagan Miller

I really love my job as an RA. All the girls in my hall this year are AWESOME and I am proud to call each one of them my friend. Because we have this kind of relationship, it makes dorming (and RA-ing) one of the best experiences I have had in college. I LOVE Y'ALL! GO SH!



HONORS FACULTY



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DR. GARY BRADLEY



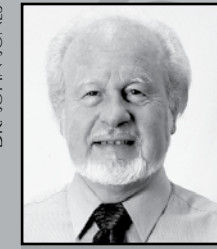
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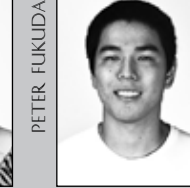
ODELI CASTILLO



DANIELLE CHOLBY



J. DEL CASTILLO



PETER FUKUDA



JENNIFER GONZALEZ



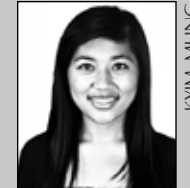
ALEXANDER KNECHT



MATTHEW McDONALD



CAITLIN MILLER



KIM MUNG



JONATHAN PAYNE



SHARMILA PRICE



AMANDA SCHULTZ



MELISSA S. UAREZ



ASHLEE SUMILAT



JUSTIN TUOT



CALEB WALKER



JOSHUA WALKER



BRIANE WARING

FRESHMAN HONORS STUDENTS

HONORS OFFICE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Dr. Douglas Clark, Honors Director; Nina Park, Alexandra Lopez, Caitlin Miller, Leslie Mutuku, Debra Marovitch (secretary)

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9 am - 5 pm

WEDNESDAY
10 am-5 pm

THURIDAY
9 am-4 pm

FRIDAY
9 am-1 pm

951.785.2310

dmarovit@lasierra.edu

EXPLORING OUR WORLD

by Rebecca Barcelo

"Ugh! What in the world is that noise?? Close the window! It sounds like someone's dying out there!"

Funny how the same "Call to Prayer" that we had so "open-mindedly" discussed and appreciated the afternoon before, suddenly seemed, at four in the morning, to produce a less than appreciative response.

As a traveler abroad, there are always adaptations that must be made if you are going to truly learn about, and even attempt to fit into, said culture. However, I believe that I can speak for my fellow Honors classmates in expressing that Turkey was truly unlike anything we'd ever experienced before.

Along with the Call to Prayer, the tea that Turks so avidly enjoy quickly became part of our daily routine. We would have breakfast with some tea, visit a local artisan's shop (where he would offer us tea), and then head over to our favorite garden café to discuss the day's plans...over Turkish coffee, or some tea. Then we would spend the day meandering through the Hagia Sofia or the Blue Mosque, or exploring the Topkapi Palace and (now empty) Harem, learning about an ancient culture fraught with rivalry between Muslims and Christians. Throughout our tours, we were



Nilmini Pang on a hill overlooking Cappadocia, in central Turkey. The Honors tour to Turkey was an unforgettable experience for La Sierra University students to experience first-hand a beautiful country and a different culture.



Most of the 2009 students preparing to eat in Istanbul. Meals were just one opportunity La Sierra students had to lean about cultural differences.

able to see how our religions did have differences; however, what was most impressive was how many similarities there were between the two - a subject that we were privileged to discuss with an Imam who kindly gave us of his time by answering our many curious questions about Islam.

We learned about the different social roles that were expected among men and women of the culture. We learned about bartering, Turkish cuisine, and hospitality. But most of all we learned that differences, handled with diplomacy, are something we can truly come to appreciate.

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THANK YOU! **Your donations are greatly appreciated!**

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Teachers Touching Eternity Through Their Students

I just returned from the annual conference of the most prestigious college/university Honors association in the United States – The National Collegiate Honors Council – held in Washington, D.C. Along with nearly 1,900 other Honors program directors and Honors students from around the country, I was privileged to attend plenary lectures with subjects ranging from higher education to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict; to participate in round-table discussions and informative sessions on best practices in the field; to talk with colleagues in the fine business of Honors education.



Among the personal highlights for me was a line dropped by one of the plenary speakers, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who consults for agencies like the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, among other esteemed organizations. A child leader in the Civil Rights Movement from Birmingham, Alabama who received his Ph.D. in higher education administration/statistics at 24 years of age, Dr. Hrabowski cited a sage as saying that “Teachers touch eternity through their students.”

This is a profound idea, even if not new. The notion that students, energized about their educational experience at La Sierra University, become collaborative agents of seeking, knowing and serving, students who will embody for their lifetimes and beyond our best efforts to contrib-

ute to our collective growth intellectually, spiritually, socially – this drives and motivates teachers. This keeps us going, even through grading of mid-terms.

Much of the conference focused on nuts-and-bolts kinds of things – admissions criteria (the Admissions Committee will be talking about these); fund-raising for Honors (I will be setting up another appointment with the Advancement Office); travel abroad (Istanbul, here we come again); strategic planning (headed for the Honors Council agenda); a wish list for the program (I’d like to talk to the president!).

While there may seem to be a disconnect between the high ideals of teaching and the nitty-gritty, committee stuff, the former could not happen well without the latter. In other words, our shared dreams of students’ extending our reach to eternity don’t happen serendipitously; they are realized and become reality because of intentional planning, because of dreams and visions of expanding La Sierra’s legacy to the world, because of budget planning and fund-raising, because of ... well, because of committees.

So, we continue to work together – students, faculty, administration, and staff via classes and committees – to enhance and enlarge the benefits of a La Sierra education, not simply to make our four (or five ... or six?) years together a tremendous learning experience, but the beginning of a life-long journey of exploration and discovery as human beings, from now until eternity.

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.

Involving Corona’s Youth Through Mass Communications *Alexandra Lopez, Ruth K. Smith*

We worked at Today’s Youth Organization located at the civic center in Corona, CA. Teaming up with the program’s founder, Tina Hunt, a former television producer, we recreated a program that was originally geared towards well-connected children of city officials. Now aimed at opening the doors for all junior high students in the Corona-Norco district, we worked towards facilitating self-expression, civic engagement, and youth empowerment in the city’s young people. Working with seventh to ninth graders, we taught them the skills involved in television production. Learning things such as interviewing skills, how to appear on camera, and learning lines of a script promoted and encouraged positive attributes such as self-confidence and interpersonal skills.

Community Partner: Today’s Youth



Healthcare for the Homeless *Ramona Bahnam, Jinjutha Silpanisong*

This community project is designed to help the community by reaching out to the homeless in the Inland Empire. We established contact with the founder of Rest for Your Soul Ministries, Daryl Botts. We provided them with Inland Harvest services, a company that provides leftover food for the needy. We raised medical and health awareness by presenting slideshows about the harmful effects of substance abuse, mainly drugs, alcohol, and cigarette smoking. We spoke to Dr. Haloviak about making this part of her class service learning option, as an option for community service. We raised awareness of the prejudice against the homeless by involving them in on-campus activities such as Tuesday Tunes.

Community Partner: Rest for Your Souls Ministries



Girl Scouts Badge “Educating Myself” *Alicia August, Meliseanna Gibbons, Hilda Riderer*

The badge, entitled “Educating Myself,” was designed to educate girls, ages 11-17, about the importance of making informed decisions in regards to their health. We felt it was important to implement an effective program that would teach young girls a set of skills that they can depend on when faced with tough decisions. These courses also provided them with useful information that they could pass on to their friends. Throughout the activities the girls learned about the harmful effects of substance abuse, the importance of daily exercise, and the benefits of proper nutrition. These activities were designed to be fun, educational, and creative. Each activity focused on one aspect of these approaches to good health and aimed to encourage the formation of healthy habits.

Community Partner: Girl Scouts in Redlands



Bridging the Gap *Ciara Talbot, Canty Wang, Robert L. Walker*

Bridging the Gap is a student-run program in collaboration with the Think Together after-school program that aims to bring students to proficiency level in areas of Mathematics, Science and Reading. This was done by implementing a holiday enrichment curriculum, direct volunteer work and “Fun Friday” activities/ experiments. In addition, Bridging the Gap has compiled the holiday enrichment curriculum into a book that can be used at different sites of the Think Together program as a method to sustain Bridging the Gap’s efforts.

Community Partner: Think Together



RTA UPass and LSU: A More Mobile Campus *Karolyna Suarez, Patrick Garrett York*

Every community must be responsible to reflect on their contribution to global economic unrest, climate change, or any of a number of other universal issues plaguing our world today. Each community must also actively attempt to stabilize or diminish their contribution to these problems. Our project is based on this idea of community responsibility. By starting the La Sierra Bus Riders Club and providing other bus related resources to students of the campus, we hope to stimulate and increase interest in and use of public transportation in Riverside County.

Community Partner: Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)

