



The Honors Newsletter



California State University, Los Angeles

Spring/Summer 1999

The 9th Annual Honors Preview and Awards Ceremony

By Victor Quinones

It had been a long day and a full moon loomed above, so I went to the Honors Preview dinner this past October 21st with vague expectations, carefully avoiding black cats, ladders and such. But the night went fairly well. When I arrived, the Los Angeles Room was filled with the conversations of Honors professors, students and their families. Pianist George Oh and violinist Norman Pao set the mood with popular classical tunes.

The ceremony started with a farewell to Kathleen Constantini and a welcome to our interim GE Honors Director and Advisor, Diane Vernon. She expressed her excitement in her new responsibilities, which among others, includes keeping the GE Honors Board of Directors on track. She explained the necessity for GE Honors students to get involved with the Honors program. When it comes to graduate school, internships and scholarships, "Your professors and I write really great reference letters," she said. "But we can't do this unless we know you."

English Professor Dr. Middlebrook continued with a graceful speech about what it truly means to be "Honors material." As the Oxford English Dictionary defines the noun, honors indicates

"special distinction gained for proficiency in scholarship." But as a verb, to honor is "to confer dignity upon something or someone." "This is what you must seek to do in return," he explained. So for one to be truly honored and reach full potential, it is necessary to give back unselfishly and passionately.

A student of Middlebrook's also read the poem "Facing West," by Walt Whitman. The poem dealt with the journey of life as a purpose in and of itself.

Subsequently, there was a raffle of various baskets and mugs filled with candies and other goodies.

Shortly after, the Faculty of the Year and Student of the Year were announced. Dr. Elizabeth Miller (Anthropology) was voted the outstanding Honors faculty. The student of the year, nominated by GE Honors professors, was Sam Ying, a "strong writer" and apt student who has taken one Honors course per quarter since entering CSLA in 1998.

Richard Maddox, EEP Director, announced graduating EEPsters and introduced new students in the program. Maddox praised his students for their "High moral drive and moral character." Two of the many EEPsters present included the violinist and pianist on hand that night.

The Presidential Scholarship recipients were also announced. These seven outstanding students selected from local high schools to attend CSLA will receive \$5000 per year for four years: Ivan Albert Reyes, Numan Benjamin Parada, Monica Chew, Laurel E. Diskin, Nathan Craig Charlton, Ciro Alfonso Ramirez, Jr. and Hunly Chy.

The GE Honors Program Scholarships were awarded to Laurel Diskin, Daniel Firpo and Verena Firpo.

Twelve-year-old Verena Firpo also received the Pearl Wang GE Honors Scholarship of \$500 for

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four years. She is a Biology major who plans on going to medical school and hopes to become a pediatrician. She was admitted to CSLA at the age of 10 in 1998, but waited until 1999 to enroll. The co-author of numerous plays, she is renowned for her journalistic skills.

Laurel Diskin, 18, was also awarded the Juanita and Bob Mantovani GE Honors Scholarship of \$500 for four years. A Music major, she is an accomplished violinist and member of a choir and an AP Scholar, who has a wide variety of interests.

Daniel Firpo, 14, also received the King Luk GE Honors Scholarship of \$500 for four years. The Computer Science major admittedly writes novels in his free time. ■

Newsletter Staff

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Staff Writers: | Newton Wong |
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| Special Thanks: | Mark Gordon |
| | Diane Vernon |
| | Kathy Constantini |

SPECIAL BULLETIN: CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS A GREAT WAY TO SATISFY YOUR GE HONORS REQUIREMENT OF 20 SERVICE HOURS PER YEAR. AND YES, WE DO KEEP COUNT.

CSU Honors Consortium

By

Kathleen M. Costantini, former Faculty Director

As Faculty Director of the GE Honors Program, I had the opportunity to attend a CSU system wide Honors Consortium Spring Meeting. It was held on the beautiful campus of CSULB and was hosted by Dr. Roberta Markman, the Director of the Honors Program at Long Beach. This provided a wonderful opportunity to meet Honors faculty directors from other CSU campuses and learn about each other's honors programs.

We had an opportunity to compare notes on everything from honors admission standards, curriculum, program administration, enrollment figures, grad-

uation rates, and activities. Participants included Honors Directors from Cal State campuses: Bakersfield, Chico State, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Hayward, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and San Francisco. The Consortium holds benefits not only for Honors faculty directors, but also in the future, for honors students system wide.

The Consortium is looking forward to being able to raise funds for Honors Study Abroad and research opportunities for CSU honors students. In addition, the Consortium may be a means to more effective networking of CSU honors programs and students. ■ *Note: Dr. Constantini's articles were written prior to her retirement.*

**mmm...wait till you see what's cooking this fall...
Our first-ever cookbook will include hundreds of
entries donated from students and faculty across
campus. The result? Absolutely delicious.**

Q & A With Graduating Seniors

Meet Luis Garcia. He graduated this Winter '99 quarter with a B.S. in Physics. We had a chance to ask him some questions about his undergraduate experience.

Q: How did you pick your major?

A: I always knew I wanted to be a science major. The question was whether I should specialize in chemistry, math, or physics. After I started taking the lower division courses, then I knew physics was for me.

Q: What did you like most about your major?

A: Physics in general is very interesting. The best thing about physics is applying it. Einstein's theories are fascinating. It boggles the mind how he took some simple math that changed our perception of the universe—time and space. It's amazing to find out about stuff like the nonlinearity of time, that goes on beyond our five senses. Applying physics in lab is completely engrossing. Just like any other stimulating activity—playing sports or chess, applying physics absorbs you to the point where you lose track of time and forget about everything else.

Q: Who have been your favorite teachers?

A: Dr. William Taylor stands out in the Physics Department. He's a teacher, advisor and friend. All GE honors professors were great. But out of the twelve Honors courses that I took, I especially recommend Dr. Price's philosophy classes. She's very profound. The hardest, but most rewarding course, was Honors Professor Dr. Srole's history class. Expect to work in that class. But she works so hard herself, it's worth it.

Q: How long did it take you to graduate?

A: It took me 6 years to graduate, at 16 units per quarter. The reason was I kept on taking math and physics electives. I never seemed to be able to schedule the courses I needed to take. Most people don't know that some of the required classes in Physics are only given every other year, which means you must plan your schedule even before you enter the university in order to graduate in four years.

Q: What have been the most challenging concepts of Physics?

A: Some of the electromagnetism and light concepts have been the most challenging. It requires a lot of imagination to visualize and understand electromagnetic waves and also the different dimensions of space and time.

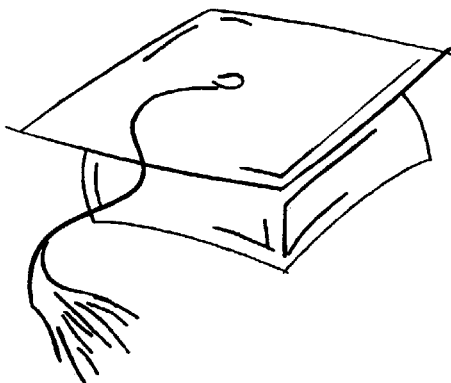
Q: After so many years, have you grown tired of school?

A: No. It's been worth it. I've had time to explore a lot of my interests. For instance, I took some Computer

Science courses and some GE Honors courses, above the required minimum, so that I'm graduating with about 230 units. I'm not tired of school. Actually, I feel that the more you know, the more confident you are. In fact, I'm looking forward to my graduate studies in Physics starting Spring 99 here at CSLA.

Q: Have you had work experience?

A: Yes, I'm presently working with a company that validates equipment. That is, we test machines to see if they do what they're supposed to do. Right now I'm testing a tank that determines the homogeneity of liquids used in blood transfusions. Entry-level stuff, but not boring because I use what I've learned. I plan to stick with this company while pursuing my graduate degree.



Q & A (Continued on page 4)

Q & A (Continued from page 3)



Jemima Galiano, a Child Development major, graduated in the Spring of 1999.

Q: What career opportunities are available to Child Development majors?

A: Child Development involves studying kids, how they grow and what makes them tick. You can teach in an elementary school, or work in any institution with children.

Q: Why did you choose Child Development as a major?

A: I have always loved kids. Ever since I was 14 I loved working at day camps and summer camps. My own baby is due in July!

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: Currently, I work as Teacher's Assistant in an elementary school. I know that I want to teach. I'm starting my Credential Program and Master's in Counseling in September.

Q: Who have been your favorite teachers?

A: Most school of Education teachers are great. Newman, Saito, Bowman, stand out. Saito showed me the difference between traditional and creative types of play where children learn. I liked how Bowman actually played games with us to teach our students.

Q: What did you dislike about your major?

A: Professors are very popular. So Education classes were often crowded, and advisement and staff resources were scarce.

Q: What advice do you give freshpersons in your major?

A: The one thing I would recommend the most is to get some teaching experience while in school. That way you can apply what you've learned, even though it is difficult to juggle school and work simultaneously.

Q: What activities have you been involved in?

A: It has been difficult to get involved while working, but I was an Orientation Leader and a PALS mentor.

Q: How long did it take you to graduate?

A: It took about 4 years, taking from 12-23 units per quarter.

Robert Rivoli, a Biology major, graduates in Spring 99.

Q: What have you been involved in?

A: I have held 2 jobs and I now have an internship. My first job was as a clerical assistant in the E&T Department on campus. My second job was in Sacramento, updating databases, helping with conferences and workshops. My internship is with the Speaker of the State Assembly, where I'm the field rep for health issues. On campus, I have done research with Dr. Torres, mapping genes to identify new species of miniscule invertebrate crustaceans extracted from Jamaican waters (they look like shrimp). I also joined a fraternity, SAE, served on the planning Committee for Raza Relations at the Student-Union, and did community service with Circle-K. Last year, I was named Homecoming King, after passing rigorous interviews and requirements. But it was worth it; I had a lot of fun, and was awarded a \$1000 scholarship. And yes, I am an EEPster.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: Biology is my major, but I'm also interested in politics and law. Right now I'm waiting to see if I get a scholarship to work with the Assembly in Sacramento. I also plan on going to medical school and to specialize in cardiology. I may also get a Masters in Public Administration.

Q: What do you like most about Biology?

A: I find evolutionary theory to be fascinating. The most interesting is the scientific route, how organisms

Q & A (Continued on page 5)

Q & A (Continued from page 4)

interact with their environment--ecology.

Q: What advice would you give to fresh-person Biology majors?

A: Visit your advisor often, at least every quarter. It really helps.

Q: Who have been the best teachers?

A: Honors professor Dr. Osio is awesome, she helps you and you can talk to her, and she'll write great letters of recommendation. Biology Professor Dr. Torres teaches very well, and is enthusiastic about subject material. Dr. Paulson is very interesting, makes learning fun, and relates to students as people.

Q: How long did it take you to graduate?

A: It took me five years to graduate. I'm now 19.

I remarked that when he entered college at 14, I was still playing with my GI Joe's. 'I collect GI Joe's,' he retorted.

Hot Tips for Honors Students

by Newton Wong

Who?? **Shahen Akelyan**, Civil Engineering major, working both on his master's and full-time for the County of LA.

How?? Took classes at Community College, 50 extra units for fun and still graduated in 3.5 years

Why? Got inspired by my dad and my uncle who where civil engineers.

TIPS...

- ⇒ Take major classes while taking GE courses because major classes might get canceled or filled up when you need to graduate.
- ⇒ Plan out your schedule so that you won't waste time. Don't work unless you have to.
- ⇒ Take 400-level Sociology Honors courses and Broadcasting 466.

1998-1999 Honors Year: From Soup to Dessert with Pizza In-between!

By
Kathleen M. Costantini, Faculty Director

The GE Honors Program Club Board of Directors has long entertained the idea of starting "Pizza with Professors" as a traditional Honors event. The purpose of this activity is to bring together Honors faculty, with small groups of Honors Program students, in an informal setting, to share interests and talents, and enjoy an "easy to prepare, serve, and clean-up" menu!

In Fall Quarter 1998, the first "Pizza With Professors" replaced the traditional "Post Finals Lunch." This was a joint social venture between the GE Honors faculty and Program students with the PALS Program Peer Mentors, faculty and Mentees. In winter 1999, Dr. Robert Stull, Honors Geology Professor, gave the first "Pizza With Professors" slide presentation on "The Movement of Volcanic Plates as Seen Through GPS Images." Later in the quarter, a second "Pizza With Professors" slide presentation was pre-

sented by Dr. Beth Miller, Professor of Honors Anthropology, on the topic of "The Decline of Native American Health in the Post 1492 Americas." She shared with us, her over ten years of research on this topic, including how she became interested in this area of study, and what lead her to the conclusions she has drawn as a result of her intensive research efforts. Dr. Miller's presentation was followed by a "pizza and salad" reception. In spring quarter, the GEHP Club Board of Directors invited Dr. Robert Stull for a return engagement. This time, he shared his fabulous slides and stories about his recent summer "Antarctic Adventure." Everyone enjoyed exploring with him the geological and ecological features of this cold, inhospitable region of the world. A lunch of pasta salad and breads followed, giving those who attended, an opportunity to talk one-on-one with Dr. Stull about his Antarctic exploration experience.

A final "Pizza with Professors" for the 1998-1999 Honors year, will take on a more formal ambience, as it is combined with the Fifth Annual Grad-

Pizza (Continued on page 7)

Honors Farewell

An open letter from our Director...

I would like to take this opportunity to say a *special thank you* to everyone that has been a part of GE Honors over the past, going on, eight years.

Since 1992, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the incredibly talented Honors faculty, the very gifted and talented Honors Program students, and creative, hardworking Honors Club Board of Directors on this campus.

I came aboard as Honors Faculty Director with great trepidation. I followed in the footsteps of the outstanding, popular, and formidable Honors Director, Dr. Gerald Beer, Professor of Honors Math.

I would have been overwhelmed with the professional responsibilities that go with the title "Honors Faculty Director," if it were not for constant and patient guidance of Dr. Beer. In addition, I survived my first Honors year because of the "no-nonsense" efficiency and direction I received from the then, Honors Student Assistants, Nora Wenceslao and Amery Vonghchant Ray (Terry), and a very involved Club Board of Directors, that included the likes of a never-ending dynamo such as Michelle Korner.

Everything did finally fall into place. Honors faculty continued through the years, with great professional enthusiasm, to support the Honors Program and the Club events and activities.

Outstanding Honors Student Assistants went on to graduate with distinction, namely, Roger Salisch, Vickie Wong, and Tiffany Barrios. Each contributed greatly to the growth and future of Honors at CSLA. The newest Student Assistants, Dawn Haberkorn and Alejandro-Prieto José are already contributing to this legacy of excellence.

The members of the Club Board of Directors have also been invaluable in bringing about the

positive changes that have taken place in Honors. Among the many Club Officers and members that come to mind, who have made a real difference in Honors, include: Ursula Schlotbom Ortega (Jeff), Charly Kao, Linda Tsai, Mahmoud Traina, Nandan Lad, Nipa and Reena Ved, Sumanta Pal, Mark Gordon, Bryce Ready, Stephanie Stoll, Artur Prenja, Hallen Chung, and Albert Eddy.

The 1999-2000 newly elected and appointed Club Officers: Chris Chein, Ivy Dai, Victor Quinones, Ana Zepeda, Masha Litvits, Alejandra Lopez, Ronald Leung, Stephen Liu, Vanessa Sheldon, Yang Yang, and Robert Lee, are already beginning to create their own honors leadership legacy.

During my tenure as Honors Faculty Director, and with the help of the honors faculty, administrators, staff, Club Board of Directors, and students, Honors was able to realize innovative and successful accomplishments. Some of these include: Establishing an annual system of Faculty Recognition Awards; starting the Annual Graduating GEHP Senior Recognition and Retiring GEHP Faculty Spring Reception; expansion of the Quarterly Honors Newsletter format; setting up the Honors Alumni Database; creating GEHP student and faculty Handbooks; initiating the pro-

"I am...grateful for the life-long friendships that were made possible because of Honors."

duction of the GEHP mugs and pencils; establishing the Pizza with Professors event; initiating the GEHP Cookbook fundraiser; producing interactive video presentations for NCHC and WRHC conferences; expansion of the Honors Curriculum; establishing the Annual BBQ fundraiser; restructuring the Annual Honors Preview and Awards as a formal event featuring Honors faculty, Department Chairs, School Deans and Associate Deans, along with the students and their families and friends; and obtaining an Honorary Honors faculty sponsorship for each event and activity.

As part of my legacy to Honors, I have written eighteen recommendations for the future of Honors, with the hope that these ideas will help the new Faculty Director begin to take Honors into the next millenium.

Last but not least, G.E. Honors would not be possible without the invaluable support and guidance of Dean

Farewell (Continued on page 7)

Farewell (Continued from page 6)

Alfredo Gonzalez and Associate Dean Virginia Hunter, Office of Undergraduate Studies. I am grateful to them for their professionalism, dedication to Honors, and their friendship. I am also grateful for the life-long friendships that were made possible because of Honors.

Now, Honors is ready for new leadership, and I am ready for retirement!

Welcome, Professor Diane Vernon, Department of Nursing, as the new faculty acting Director of the G.E. Honors Program.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen M. Costantini, Faculty Director,
G.E. Honors Program 1992-1999*

Pizza (Continued from page 5)

uating Honors Seniors Reception. Dr. Kevin Baaske, Professor of Honors Speech Communications, will be the featured speaker, as we bid farewell to the Honors Class of 1999. This event will include a light pasta buffet.

Next year, the G.E. Honors Club Board of Directors will schedule a "Pizza with Professors Series," that will be scheduled at the beginning of the academic year. The day, the time, and the location for the series will be standardized throughout fall, winter and spring quarters. All Honors Program members and faculty will have the series schedule in September, so that they can plan their calendars for the sessions they want to attend.

Special thanks to Vanessa Sheldon's mother, Mrs. Julie Evans, for the decorum she provided at each of the Pizza with Professors. It was her excellent recipes, creative ideas, and enthusiasm that have finally made "Pizza with Professors" a reality. ■

Ending the Honors Year: Literally from Soup to Nuts to Dessert!

By

Kathleen M. Costantini, Faculty Director

The 1998-1999 GE Honors year began with the Annual Honors Preview Awards Ceremony, where guests enjoyed a buffet of hors d'oeuvres, pastas, salads, sandwiches, and desserts. This was followed by pizza, as in "Pizza with Professors."

A beautiful and delicious spaghetti luncheon was enjoyed by all of those who attended the Annual David Lawrence Memorial Lecture, to honor GEHP Alum, CSLA and Cal Tech graduate, Altair Maine. A beautiful, formal, reception has been planned for the Graduating Honors Seniors Reception to be held on May 27th, 1999. The Honors year is coming to end, literally from "soup" to "nuts."

Recipes for punches, soups, candied walnuts, salads, main dishes, side dishes, desserts, and much more are coming in daily to the GEHP Office. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni from Honors and throughout the campus community are contributing fabulous, mouthwatering recipes to our Cal State L.A. Flavor of Honors Cookbook fundraiser.

The Club Board of Directors has asked CSLA faculty, staff, and students to submit one or more of their favorite recipes, and a story to go along with the recipe, if there is one!

We have been getting favorite recipes, along with great stories and some with pictures. Honors students Vanessa Sheldon and Vickie Wong are creating original artwork for the cookbook. Julie Evans is our editor in chief!

The money raised from the sale of the Honors Cookbook will be used to send Honors students and faculty to the NCHC and WRHC conferences on an annual basis, as well as to support Honors events throughout the year. When the cookbook is published and ready for sale, we will kick-off the fundraiser with a "book-signing" and "sampling" event. ■

news flash

Fellowships are now available for **undergrad students** who intend to pursue doctoral study in **Anthro, Psych, or Geology**. Selected students will receive \$2400/yr for 2 yrs. Contact Dr. Eisen at 323-343-5006 or meisen@calstatela.edu ASAP

Help Wanted

Newsletter Staff Needed: writers, editors, layout/format people, photographers. If you would like to contribute poems, stories, etc., on an irregular basis, that's ok too. You will get Honors hours either way.



Top five perks of working with us:

1. FULFILL YOUR HONORS SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENT (20 HOURS PER YEAR)!
2. Play a real-life reporter/writer/photographer, interviewing students, faculty, and alumni.
3. Sharpen your social and writing skills.
4. Gain experiences to talk about in your scholarship essays, Grad School applications, and resumes. Employers love to hear about your efforts to improve your team-player skills.
5. See your work published in a newsletter with circulation of 400 copies each quarter. Cool: you will be a *writer*.

No experience necessary. If interested e-mail Editor Victor at: vquinon@yahoo.com

A Special Thanks Goes Out to Mark Gordon:

By Hallen Chung

Mark Gordon has been an active member of the General Education Honors Board of Directors since Spring 1998 and has been a student at CSLA since Summer 1996. In addition to serving as the GEHP Newsletter editor and VP, Mark is also involved with several other on-campus organizations and programs. Currently, Mark is the Southwestern Anthropological Association (SWAA) Newsletter editor, the Early Entrance Program Public Relations Student Representative, and a member of Dr. Paulson's and Dr. Bernal's research teams. In addition, Mark was voted Phi Kappa Phi's Outstanding Freshman student in 1997. Mark has also

"The Board is only as good as its members" —

Mark Gordon

been very active in his departments, and has completed various independent research projects for Dr. Lauren Arenson and Dr. Elizabeth Miller (Honors ANTH 265 and ANTH 260, respectively).

In June, 1999, Mark will receive his B.A. in Anthropology. He plans to return to CSLA in Fall 1999 to pursue a M.A. in Anthropology. After earning a Masters, Mark plans to enter either an M.D. program or a M.D./PhD program.

When asked what his most rewarding college experience was, Mark answered that the opportunity to interact with faculty as well as his participation in activities made his college experience very rewarding. Other fond memories that Mark has of CSLA involve being the GEHP "chauffeur". His advice to the up and coming GEHP members is to "get involved...the Board is only as good as it's members".

...Alumni News...

* **Michelle Ann Korner.** (GEHP '97). Michelle received her Master's Degree in Journalism from the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California. She graduated with awards of distinction at the May 14th, 1999 Commencement.

* **Nora Wenceslao.** Nora is a Registered Nurse at White Memorial Hospital.

* **Sagar Vadya.** Medical student at UCLA.