Hello Honors!

The year has started off with a bang and I am so excited for the semester ahead. This is the first edition of the new monthly newsletter your Committee and Cohort Representatives will put together and distribute near the beginning of each month. It will feature a list of the events we have planned for the coming month, important things to remember (like purchasing your Honors Ball ticket before the price increases), and two sections that you should not miss! Our new Student and Faculty Spotlight will allow us, the Committee and Cohort Reps, a chance to showcase the extraordinary people that make our program so strong. Every month we will accept nominations from anyone in the program who wishes to have a fellow Honors student or one of our outstanding faculty members recognized. You may nominate someone for any reason you deem appropriate, and it will be up to the editors of this newsletter and myself to narrow down whom we will feature. Please submit your nominations to any member of the Committee and we will ensure they all receive full consideration. I am happy to announce the people who will be spotlighted in our inaugural newsletter edition, Chris and Nick Nguyen. They are outstanding members of the program and have made it their personal goal to ensure that everyone in the program has someone to go to when in need or just have a question. As Peer Mentors, their talents are uniquely useful as they have the difficult task of helping our newest Cohort truly find their wings both in the program and around the campus. The Faculty Spotlight this month is our exceptional Director Dr. Lee Simpson. When she is not on the pool deck, she can be found in her office always attuned to the needs of the program. Whenever there is a student who needs a push in the right direction Dr. Simpson is there to set them on the right path. The Honors Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to Chris, Nick, and Dr. Simpson for the making the Honors program a shining beacon at Sacramento State. We are proud to have you among us.

We are already a third of the way through the fall semester and I would like to thank everyone for your attendance at our events so far and at our Fall Convocation. The Honors Committee has worked diligently over the summer to plan lots of events and activities for us to enjoy this year, so stay tuned! I would like to end my part with a reiteration of the challenges I made during my address at our Fall Convocation. I challenge you all to make this program your own, I have asked the Committee to introduce new and inspiring ideas and my hope is that we shall be forever changing and improving as a program. I challenge you to be our ambassadors in the community; no matter where you are, always remember that you represent the very best at Sac State. And if you feel like reaching out to your high schools so that past teachers know about us, please let us know if you need any help. Ben, our Recruitment Chair, is willing to assist you in whatever way he can. And finally, I challenge you to get involved. Whether it is with Honors by serving on a subcommittee, with a student club or organization, or if it is with ASI, please put yourself out there. There is a wealth of experiences available to us while we are here and all we have to do is be ready to have them.

Yours,

Zachary Corbo, President
Faculty in the Spotlight
By: Jennifer Gregory and Jonathon Huang

For our first faculty member in the spotlight section, we decided to choose the one staff member in Honors that has truly made all our accomplishments possible, Dr. Lee Simpson. Dr. Simpson not only teaches Honors 103, but acts as the Director for the Honors Program. Her involvement as director in the program extends from reviewing the applications for potential Honors students to interacting with the Sacramento community and getting them involved in the program. Although, she may have many other important items to get done, she will always make time for the students of the Honors Program when we need her. Dr. Simpson's dedication to this program has encouraged many of us to push ourselves pass our previously believed limits. We better ourselves not only from listening to her encouraging speeches at each of our major events, such as Convocation and Honors Ball, but also from her academic and social advice that we receive when we stop by her office. Without Dr. Simpson's constant support and advocacy for improvement of the Honors Program, many of us would not have the opportunities we do. She devotes a good majority of her time to making sure each and every Honors student has the best chance of success. Her kindness, knowledge, enthusiasm, and loving nature helps nurture us into the worldly, knowledgeable, respectful, and thoughtful young adults that we will continue to grow into with her guidance. We have all the luck in the world for having such a wonderful and wise individual as our Director. She always takes great pride and happiness in our work as we take great pride and happiness in her. Dr. Simpson loves the Honors Program and the students that make up it and we love her. I could think of no better faculty member to spotlight for this first newsletter as without her we would not have had any of these opportunities at all. Thank you Dr. Simpson for everything.

Students in the Spotlight
By: Jennifer Gregory and Jonathon Huang

We originally planned to make this student spotlight section highlight only one individual for their exemplary work in and outside of the Honors Program. However, there are two students that deserve to be highlighted together as our first students in the spotlight, since you cannot have one without the other. Chris and Nick Nguyen, who are most commonly known as "the Twins" are this month's students in the spotlight. Chris and Nick have a habit of making anyone feel welcome to the program. They mentor students at all hours of the day and make sure anyone they meet will always leave their presence with a smile on their face. As peer mentors for the First Year Experience Program, Chris and Nick have worked hard this past month to ensure the students they are mentoring feel welcome and have the knowledge necessary to succeed at Sac State. Whether they are on the clock or not, Chris and Nick will always go out of their way to not only greet you, but ask you about your day and listen to what you have to say. Of course, when Chris and Nick are not busy making their peers smile, they are busy juggling their many tasks and responsibilities in the Business Honors Program. Thus, their passion and dedication to making the Honors Program feel welcoming at all times is an inspiration to us all and is the reason why they deserve this month's spotlight. So next time you walk pass Chris and Nick or just one half of this amazingly kind duo feel free to say hello and see how awesome they truly are.
Honors Convocation Recap

By: Jennifer Gregory

Honors Convocation, an event that happens once a year to bring Honors students together and motivate them for the semesters to come. As far as Honors events go, Convocation remains one of the most important events to program as it reconnects students with the Honors Program core values. Last month’s Convocation was an insightful and interesting event. The theme involved happiness and once the establishment of the theme occurred the atmosphere did brighten up quite a bit. We started the evening with a message from Dr. Simpson, who once again welcomed us back into the comforting blanket of Honors and offered encouraging words of wisdom that echoed through the minds of many students even after the event ended. We met the new members of this year’s Honors Committee led by our very enthusiastic President, Zach Corbo. The heartfelt speech that followed from Zach not only guaranteed this year would be full of joy, but also be full of more amazing events. We also got a preview of next semester’s Honors Ball from Jan Marie Corpuz, our new Honors Ball Chair. The plans for Honors Ball next semester looked truly exquisite and it made me wish that we could attend such an amazing event tomorrow evening instead of waiting for April to roll around. Next, Meghan Daly, planner of the Honors Journal this year, gave an informative speech, in which she expressed her desire to showcase and celebrate all of our talents in the Honors Journal this year. We also heard from Samantha Studdard, who discussed her amazing year abroad in France. She pointed out how much the staff, faculty, and community members involved in Honors help make our dreams come true. Sadly, our next speaker, Paul Shergill did not get the chance to speak about the class that several Honors students including himself took this past summer in Hong Kong. An opportunity that would not have been possible without the continuous support of the program. Finally, the most important speech of the night arrived and we listened to the wise advice of Curt Certraro, our keynote speaker for the evening and a businessman who helps people find career happiness. Mr. Certraro in a wonderful and intuitive speech summarized his work experiences and how he had found career happiness. Additionally, he shared with us a haiku by Mizuta Masahide that read, “Barn’s burnt down –now I can see the moon.” This haiku indicated that humanity needed to see the bright side to every situation and find true happiness in the simpler and beautiful objects rather than allow material wealth to control their lives. Thus, with Mr. Certraro’s finishing comments on the talent of the Honors Program and with his fantastic advice ringing in our ears, Convocation came to a close. Although, the night was still young and many students gathered in the Games Room after Convocation to have some fun. Those that stayed then proceeded to enjoy the rest of their evening in the company of their fellow Honors peers, all the while spreading some of the happiness that had spilled over from the radiance of this year’s Honors Convocation.
Welcome back, Honors. To kick off fall 2014, we have already had a handful of events: Convocation, Games Night, and the Drive-In Social--just to name a few, but it does not stop there. Your wonderful Honors committee is putting in 110 percent to make sure that Honors is full of fun, laughter, and good cake--basically they are attempting to make an event better than a Hallmark birthday card. The committee is striving to make every event they put on completely amazing, so please appreciate them for their efforts. Give em’ a high-five every now and then.

Now, let’s get down to business! The following list is compiled of the (tentative) October events--so far. All details not presented in this memo will be announced by reps, friends, staff, etc. Some way, somehow, YOU WILL KNOW. It is my hope that all of this will be written on your calendar, circled multiple times, and decorated with hand-drawn hearts. Without further ado, the October Extravaganza—Events.

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**Tentative October Events Schedule:**

- **Dixon Corn Maze on October 16th** and starts at 6pm. Cost: Admission is $11 per person.
- **Quickly Fundraiser on Friday October 24th, 11am-11pm.** There either will be a flyer to give to the people or a basket next to the register to put your receipt in.
- **Halloween Event October 30th.** Probably a movie night.
- **Pinkberry Fundraiser to follow after Halloween Event**
- **Honors Ball Tickets are now on sale.** Buy them from any Honors representative for $40.
A Brief Recap of This Summer’s Honors Hong Kong Adventure

By: Jennifer Gregory

The Honors Program provides us with many opportunities and sometimes we have to find the courage deep inside of ourselves to reach out and take these opportunities. This summer nine students decided to do just that. Whilst many of us enjoyed the summer here in the states, a group of nine students from the Honors Program decided to spend the summer taking a class in Hong Kong. This group of students spent three weeks in June living in this beautiful place as they attended the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Although, they spent a good portion of their time in class discovering how a different culture views certain items, after class they explored the region and gained experience about the world from the culture they were immersing themselves in. Zach Corbo, our Honors President, pointed out how the Honors Program prepared him for this change in perception, “the Honors Program’s basic teaching philosophy asks its student to view the world around us in a way different than we normally would, to expand our thoughts and in essence place ourselves in the shoes of others.” The Honors Program provides us with a better foundation of understanding the world around us and we can; therefore, process all the knowledge we are given no matter what situation we are in. Sienna Nyugen stated that by having an open mind “and, by experiencing this first-hand and at a personal level, you will grow, not only as a student, but as a young adult.” By being well traveled you will gain wisdom that can only be gained through seeing the world around you in a different light. Thus, if you are even thinking about studying abroad for a minute I recommend that you should take the chance as you may never know where it might lead you. If you wish to learn more details about the Hong Kong trip feel free to contact Zach Corbo or Sienna Nyugen as they would not mind answering some of your questions.


Produced by:

My name is Jennifer Gregory. I am in Cohort 7 and I am an Environmental Studies major. I am one of your friendly neighborhood Honors Newsletter writer, chief editor, organizer, designer, and well a lot of other odd little jobs. Random fact: I am probably one of the most passionate soccer fans ever.

My name is Alexis Sandoval. I am in Cohort 8, and I am one of your newsletter writers/editors/everything under the sun. When you’re younger people ask you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Now people ask, “What’s your major?” But truthfully, your major says nothing about you, so when I grow up...I want to be a teacher. Interesting tidbit #849: I don’t drink coffee.

My name is Jonathon Huang. I am in Cohort 7 and I am a Business major. I am one of your newsletter writer, editor, consultant, interviewer, and I did other jobs that helped bring this newsletter to life. Blip: “Wannabe hip hop fan."

Special thanks to: Jazmin Campos, Alex Catanio, and Zachary Corbo for pictures, articles, and other miscellaneous duties