



EC LEC TIC

SUMMER 2013

HONORS
UA COLLEGE
Scholars inspired for a lifetime.

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

Greetings Class of 2017 and welcome to the UA Honors College! Our faculty and staff look forward to getting to know you in classes, research experiences, and programs during the fall semester. You are a diverse and talented incoming class that will enhance our college with your sense of adventure, commitment to social responsibility, and creativity.

The Honors College is deeply committed to the success of our students. That's why we offer a value-added experience that will enable you to get more out of college by pursuing interdisciplinary, experiential learning in Honors classes and applying what you learn in real-world settings. We will provide you with inspiration, opportunities, and scholarships to gain a global perspective through study abroad, develop professional skills through internships, gain leadership experiences through civic engagement, or contribute new discoveries through research.

Whichever path you choose, Honors advisors, faculty, and staff will be with you each step of the way. We invite you to use this publication as a guide as you start to prepare for your first year in the Honors College and the UA. You will get an inside look at the types of Honors events and programs you can expect to see, hear from current students on how to get involved, get to know some of our prestigious Honors faculty, and much more. We want you to start the fall semester feeling confident, excited, and ready to explore new things inside and outside the classroom.

Welcome to the UA Honors College! We look forward to getting to know you in the coming months.

Patricia MacCorquodale

PATRICIA MACCORQUODALE, Ph.D.
Dean, The UA Honors College

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ON THE COVER: Bridget Proulx is a third-year Honors student in the College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Her project is an observation tower that demonstrates structural principles through the expression of an architectural design concept. Bridget decided to major in architecture because "it challenges me and provides for many different types of learning experiences, just like the Honors College. Seeing my education from where I started to where I am now just shows that these few years that you actually are in college drastically shape you as person and as a leader within the community."

2012-2013 FIRST YEAR PROGRAM EVENTS A YEAR IN REVIEW

FIRST YEAR STUDENT LAUNCH

Our annual kick-off event to welcome new Honors first-year students! They had a chance to meet their fellow first-year classmates, Honors staff and professors, and enjoy a surprise visit from the UA cheer team.

HONORS MENTOR ASSOCIATION MIXER

This was an opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet one another in a fun, social environment. Students enjoyed food, games, and prizes.

LEGAL IMMIGRATION SIMULATION

This event was held in conjunction with the 2012 Common Reading theme, Human Rights: Beyond Borders. This simulation turned participants into potential immigrants navigating the legal system, to help answer the commonly encountered question, "Why don't they just get in line and come over legally?"

POLITICAL CARTOON WORKSHOP

With a selection of political cartoons from the last 150 years, participants looked for patterns in what the media says about immigrants. More than just chuckles, this discussion encouraged investigation into U.S. policy and views of immigration over time.

FALL CARNIVAL: MEET ME AT SLONAKER

The Honors Mentor Association (HMA) started a wonderful tradition by hosting an annual fall festival for Honors students. There were games, carnival food, prizes, and attractions galore, including an inflatable basketball bungee!

BORDER HISTORY

Students learned about the evolution of the U.S./Mexico border and how it has been – and continues to be – shaped by government policies.

LIFE ON THE BORDER IN ART

As part of the 2012 Common Reading theme, Human Rights: Beyond Borders, students were able to collage, paint, and sculpt their reactions, thoughts, and feelings in response to video clips, music, or stories presented by the guest speakers.

OUROBOROS

Participants enjoyed an evening of creative pieces and original works by students of the UA School of Theatre, Film & Television.

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

Sponsored by the HMA, students enjoyed a trip to the world-renowned natural history museum, where it would have been possible to see mountain lions, Gila monsters, prairie dogs, and more.

50 YEARS LATER ... REVISITING THE DREAM

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, students gathered for breakfast to watch the video of his 17-minute speech. Afterward, they participated in a discussion about how the speech impacts society today.

MARDI GRAS MIXER

This celebration of Mardi Gras was complete with food and games to represent the culture and tradition of Mardi Gras.

ROCKS AND ROPES

Students enjoyed an opportunity to rock climb in a fun and safe environment with their Honors peers.

What made you want to apply to the Honors College a second time?

I wanted to surround myself with people who were serious and dedicated to academics. I also wanted to belong to a community. The Honors College seemed like a perfect fit, and I knew I had to work hard to make that dream a reality.

What were you most excited about at the start of your freshman year?

Taking classes that I was actually interested in, as opposed to the standard classes that everyone has to take in high school. I was very interested in Latin American Studies and higher-level language courses.

How does it feel to receive the Outstanding Freshman of the Year Award?

It's surreal! I didn't even know about the award until I saw the plaques at Slonaker hanging on the wall. Dean MacCorquodale was standing right next to me and said that there weren't a lot of submissions for the freshman award this year. If I wanted to be considered, I would need to ask a professor to submit a letter of recommendation, and I would also need to write an essay.

Tell us about that process. How did you go about it?

I knew exactly whom to approach for the professor recommendation: Melissa Fitch, one of my favorite professors at the UA, who had just written a recommendation letter for my study abroad program in Argentina next semester.

For the essay, I had to explain how my academic and social work embody the mission of the Honors College.

What was your essay about?

I focused on my five-week trip to Europe last year and how it made me more globally aware of different people and their cultures, especially in terms of discrimination. I also wrote about my love of languages and how I want to encourage others to learn languages and create international friendships.

How interesting! What made you decide to do that?

I currently teach English online at a site called Verbling, a language-learning platform that connects students from all over the world with native speakers. Students can learn and discuss things in an

informal setting through video chat and get to know different people and their cultures.

How does your involvement with this company relate to your major/minor?

I chose General Studies because it's flexible—I can study business, computer science, computer programming, graphic design, and even a little bit of film. I would like to declare a minor in Spanish and continue working with Verbling, which will ultimately help me achieve my career goal of starting my own language-learning company.

What have you enjoyed the most about the Honors College so far?

I'm still blown away by all the ways in which the Honors College makes its students a priority. I was able to contract two courses for Honors credit and that experience helped me discover something new that I normally wouldn't have considered if I wasn't in the Honors College.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY

PATRICK BALIANI

For the last 23 years, Professor Patrick Baliani has been a familiar face in the Department of English at the University of Arizona. He recently joined five other notable UA professors as Honors Interdisciplinary Faculty—a special group of faculty who combine two or more areas of study into multidisciplinary courses exclusively for Honors students. We sat down with Professor Baliani at the "Border Dynamics" sculpture, one of his favorite works of art on campus, to find out more about his new role and what it means for incoming Honors students like you!

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

What's something that people may not know about you?

Most people know that I grew up in Rome, Italy; that I met Dian, my wife, there when we were kids, and that we now have two kids of our own. Something few people know is that at Boston College, and for a year after graduating with a B.A. in English and Italian Literature, I was a member of the Teamsters. My job, in subfreezing graveyard shifts from midnight to five in the morning, was loading those 40-foot United Parcel trucks you see zooming down interstate highways. This comes to mind in dreams I still have about it, and whenever I receive a package, inevitably marked "fragile."

How did you first become involved with the Honors College?

A former student of mine in one of the very first Freshman Composition classes I taught in the UA Department of English later became the Coordinator of Outreach at the Honors College. She asked me if I would teach the English "Thinking and Writing" course for the Honors Summer of Excellence Program. This program is a great way for high school students of different backgrounds to get an experience of what Honors-caliber work will be like before they come to campus.

Why do you enjoy working with Honors students, particularly first-year students?

Freshmen make the best philosophers. The

best philosophy always comes about when an idea once centered and grounded butts up against the emergence of another idea. That's exactly where freshmen are in their lives. They just left the world view of high school and are entering another domain. During these times of change, you philosophize the most.

How does this relate to your personal teaching style or philosophy?

My teaching philosophy centers on the evolution of ideas. I like to think the best thing I can do is raise good questions. By that I mean questions that don't have easy answers. In the sciences as well as in the humanities, searching is paramount. It's not even so much arriving at the answer, but attempting to arrive.

Tell us about your role as an Honors Interdisciplinary Faculty member. What does that mean to you?

Interdisciplinary Studies is about seeing ways in which all subjects are really one subject. That may seem grandiose or abstract, but it's true. The Periodic Table, for instance, and a play by Shakespeare are both fascinating ways—languages—to express the makeup of the world. Given certain strengths of the Honors faculty and the diverse strengths of students, we may consider the "subject" of X as it applies to other studies or majors. Rather than emphasizing one particular discipline, we approach many of them in relation to one another.

What does that mean for students enrolling in one of your fall courses?

One of my courses will be called "History, Science, and the Theater." We will look at a series of contemporary plays, or plays situated in particular historical contexts. Each play will have a scientific controversy embedded in its text, and the goal of the student is to analyze and interpret the ways science and art intersect on stage. For example, what are the ramifications—historical, philosophical, aesthetic—when 20th-century communist playwright Brecht explores the 17th-century dispute between Galileo's astronomy and the beliefs of the Catholic Church? How does this controversy speak to us today?

Any advice for incoming students?

Be open to the strengths of others, share your strengths with them, and try whenever possible to take advantage of your own perceived "weaknesses." You sometimes find that the latter are actually strengths in disguise. And go to class. That's usually something you don't have to tell most Honors students, but it doesn't hurt to be reminded that it's the experience of the class that counts. Class experience is irreplaceable.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JOE PREVITE

If at first you don't succeed, try again. That's the motto Joe Previte took to heart when he was not initially admitted into the UA Honors College. Determined to be a Wildcat and a member of the Honors community, Joe submitted new test scores, recommendation letters, and an essay to be considered again. Now, he is finishing up a successful first year as an Honors student and recently received the 2013 Outstanding Freshman of the Year Award. We sat down with Joe to talk about his experience, what he's learned, and what he hopes to do in the future.

COMMON READING

THE EXAMINED LIFE



Welcome Class of 2017!

The University of Arizona is a beautiful place to be year-round, and we are sure you'll love it here just as much as we do. The Honors College is filled with exciting events that are happening almost every day! Most importantly, we know that the next four years are going to be unforgettable, and we all feel incredibly lucky to share a piece of that with you. We know what it must feel like coming in during orientation and finding out that you have another book to read before classes even begin, but don't freak!

The book we chose is amazing, and we can't wait for you to read it. This book is special in that it belongs to your class and your class only, and it is yours to read for the summer. *Planetwalker* will be the first thing you have in common with the other Honors first-year students. But before you start the book, we want to share with you why we love it, and why we believe it will have such a huge impact on your first year of college.

Themes like "What do you stand for?" and "having a voice, without a voice" will pop out of the book and will inspire you to turn the page. College will be a lot to take in, but *Planetwalker* will help you understand that the world is so much bigger than the University's boundaries. So, have fun with the book, step out of your comfort zone, and hopefully take something from it that may change the way you view the world around you.

We hope that you enjoy *Planetwalker* as much as we did, and maybe it will be the topic that brings you closer to your classmates. Watch out for events and contests that are to come and make sure to check out the Honors Facebook page. It's jam-packed with quotes and interviews with people throughout the University. Who knows? Maybe *Planetwalker* will help you find something that you believe in, because being a part of something puts the spark into the UA experience.

Good luck and enjoy your freshman year!

—The Book Club

HONORS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAMS

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

As my first year of college comes to a close, it has been a time for me to reflect on all that has made up my freshman year—the experiences, successes, and failures. I am very fulfilled by my academic accomplishments, professional development, and social interaction from the year. Despite the fun I have had cheering on UA athletics, building new friendships, and excelling in my academics, my favorite part of college by far has been participating in the Honors Community Engagement Teams (HCET).

I joined HCET my first semester of college to pursue community service and was assigned to work with a group at the Santa Rosa branch of the Pima County Public Library system. Our initial assignment was to conduct two-hour lessons on Saturday mornings at the library to get the children off the computers and engage them with education and one another, but, over the course of the school year, our mission has evolved and taken on a more meaningful purpose.

Born and raised in a family of six in Southern California, this is my first time being away from my parents and brothers. Unable to celebrate family birthdays, attend important hometown sporting events, and watch my brothers grow up is a struggle only ameliorated by the bonds I have made with the beautiful children I work with. Being invited into their lives and given the opportunity to guide and mentor them has only inspired me to devote myself wholeheartedly to my work with them. Throughout the course of the year, my group members and I have expanded our program to also focus on promoting

community involvement, acceptance of diversity, higher education, and self-awareness. I have committed myself to the success of these children whom I hold so dearly to my heart and hope to empower them with knowledge and the confidence they need to grow into responsible, capable citizens.

The classroom component of HCET has helped me achieve this progress by challenging me to find ways to measure my success, brainstorm ways to more effectively execute my services, and reflect on my work and evaluate how it is impacting the community.

Similar to many involved and socially responsible students, I spent a lot of time volunteering throughout high school with food and clothes drives, community events, beach clean-ups, and tutoring, but I never felt like my involvement was making much of a difference. For this reason, I am most thankful for my involvement in HCET, because it has given me access to do the type of service work I have aspired to do all of my life. I am entrusted with the responsibility and given the freedom to create and run my own service program and, in turn, I have engaged in the most gratifying work of all. Out of all my accomplishments in life, I am most proud of the work I do within HCET and plan to create a club in the fall to continue my work at the library.

—Samantha Gallegos

"My favorite part of college by far has been participating in HCET."

—SAMANTHA GALLEGOS



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: HOW TO PREPARE ACADEMICALLY FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR

I've been where you are, watching the calendar count down to your first day of college. As a UA Honors College graduate myself, I can admit to you that I didn't know what to expect from my Honors experience. Seventeen-year-old me would have guessed, "Longer papers? Smaller classes?" I would have been right, but there's much, much more to Honors.

Perhaps there's a little voice inside you—maybe deep, deep down and muffled, or maybe very close to the surface and very loud—asking "Am I ready for this?" You probably are, but what would I suggest, as an Honors alum and Honors faculty?



» GET READY TO FEEL CHALLENGED. The point of college isn't to feed you facts, especially in the Honors College. Our faculty want to get you thinking, and it's the highlight of our day when we see your mental gears turning and a light bulb coming on over your head. We'll do the best to set the bar high and to help you reach it, so long as you bring your open minds and your best effort.

» GET READY TO TALK. If you're an introvert like me, asking questions in class may go hand in hand with feeling challenged. It may seem like an impossible mountain to climb just to raise your hand the first few weeks of class. Do it anyway! Extroverts and introverts alike—you're about to be part of many, many discussions: in class, in your study groups, after an event, in office hours, and over drafts, over revisions, and over coffee! Come prepared for that dialogue, ready to talk, and ready to listen.

» GET READY TO FEEL INDEPENDENT. Only you (and your roommate) are going to know what time you go to bed and how much junk food you eat after midnight. I can tell you from personal experience, sleep is much better for you than the snack! In all seriousness, you're in charge of your time and energy, 100%, while you're at college, so start thinking now about what kind of fuel you want to power your college years, from the kinds of foods you eat, to the kinds of activities you participate in, and the classes you take.

"...there's much, much more to Honors."



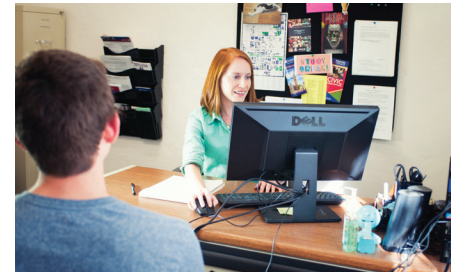
The UA Honors College strives to create an experience for its extraordinary students, and my final suggestion to you would be to use this summer to consider what kind of experience you—an extraordinary Honors student—want to create for yourself! In what ways do you want to stretch and grow in the next four years? How can the community we cultivate in Honors help you expand your horizons, and how can you be engaged with our community?

I know that I wouldn't have been as prepared for grad school and post-college life if it weren't for the experiences I had as an Honors student, and I hope you too can make the most of this amazing community. Welcome!

—Jennie McStotts

Honors Interdisciplinary Faculty

WORDS FROM THE WISE: HOW TO GET AN HONORS MENTOR



Majors and minors. Housing, roommates, and communal bathrooms. Classes, professors, counselors, and grades. Friends and campus involvement. And don't forget the drama and the decision-making.

If you are confused or anxious or lost, I don't blame you. I was, too. Everyone feels exactly the same when they take their first step onto campus on that first day as a freshman at the UA. And guess what? As a member of the Honors College, the Honors Mentor Association (HMA) is here to help you.

HMA is a club designed to guide new Honors students through their first year of college. Each incoming student is paired with a mentor who survived their freshman year and can pass down all of the knowledge and experience they've gained throughout their time at the University. Though students are paired based on request (usually by similar interests and majors), your mentor is there to answer any questions you have about the college experience. And, if they don't have an answer for you, HMA has over 40 other mentors with unique and amazing experiences and innumerable connections who can point you in the right direction. We help students answer those burning questions, such as "What general education course should I take?" or "How do I rush for a sorority or fraternity?"



As a graduating senior, if I could give my freshman self one piece of advice it would be this: find a mentor. Find an older student who is involved in things they are passionate about and doing their best to make their time in college count. The University of Arizona and the Tucson community have so much to offer students, but sometimes it's hard to figure out where to direct your energy, and you experience disappointment when you discover amazing opportunities that you wish you'd known about before it was too late. A mentor can connect you to things you may never have found on your own and open up opportunities which could change your life.

Still not sold? In addition to mentoring, HMA organizes a number of social events during the first few weeks of school in order to help mentees make new friends and realize all that the campus has to offer. Our organization also hosts an annual fall carnival, takes trips to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, has Mardi Gras mixers, and plans hikes and visits to Rocks and Ropes. In essence, we are here to give you every possible advantage we can to help you succeed as students and individuals during the four (or more!) years you will spend at the UA.

If you are interested in becoming an Honors mentee, or if you have any questions, please contact HMA at honorsmentors@gmail.com, or see one of our representatives at orientation for more information.

—Ashton Brown

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Like most things in life, college is what you make of it. That's why the Honors College offers valuable engagement opportunities to help you make the most of your college experience. But don't take our word for it. Read what current Honors students have to say about the clubs they know and love.

HONORS COLLEGE AMBASSADORS

Honors College Ambassadors (HCA) is the Honors College's own student recruitment organization. As an HCA member, you will share your experiences with prospective UA students and parents, giving them a feel for what it's really like to be an Honors Wildcat. Whether you're hosting prospective students overnight in your residence hall room, attending recruitment dinners or college fairs, serving on student panels, or meeting with prospective students one-on-one, there are plenty of opportunities to show your Wildcat pride and give visitors a taste of the real UA. HCA, the largest club in the Honors College, also has a variety of social events and philanthropy events throughout the year. Any Honors student is encouraged to apply – from freshmen to seniors. Information on the application process will be available via the Honors Weekly E-News and in Yuma and Árbol de la Vida during the first few weeks of classes.

www.bit.ly/arizonahca

CONTACT: Lisa Carotenuto // 520.621.2228 // arizonahca@gmail.com

HONORS MENTOR ASSOCIATION

Are you worried about classes? Want to know more about ASUA and student politics? Looking for an on-campus or off-campus job? Dealing with roommate or family issues? We can help answer these questions and more! The Honors Mentor Association (HMA) is a club designed to guide new Honors students through their first year of college. Each incoming student is paired with a mentor who survived their freshman year and can pass down all of the knowledge and experience they've gained throughout their time at the University. Your mentor is there to answer any questions you have about the college experience. And, if they don't have an answer for you, HMA has over 40 other mentors with unique and amazing experiences and innumerable connections who can point you in the right direction. In addition, HMA organizes a number of social events during the first few weeks of school throughout the year in order to help mentees make new friends and realize all that UA has to offer. If you are interested in becoming an Honors mentee, or if you have any questions, visit one of our representatives during orientation.

CONTACT: Melanie Lammers // honorsmentors@gmail.com

HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL

Awesome new friends, wonderful memories, developing your leadership skills, and adding to your resume, all while making a difference in YOUR Honors College – how do I sign up?! Honors Student Council (HSC) is the main student leadership group for the Honors College. We serve as the liaison between Honors staff and students. HSC gives members hands-on experience working with both students and staff to help promote awareness of exclusive Honors educational and social events. We have five HSC committees that focus on different areas of outreach: big events, education and advocacy, internal relations, philanthropy, and field trips. Some of our favorite events are Service Week, BBQs, giving students paid internships in Working for the World, field trip to see the Dalai Lama, and the fantastic Honors Amazing Race! Look for applications to join HSC at HonorsStudentCouncilAZ.com. We have our first informational meeting at 5:00pm in the Slonaker House's living room on September 4!

www.HonorsStudentCouncilAZ.com

CONTACT: Paige Frahm // 520.982.5070 // frahmplk@email.arizona.edu

HONORS PLAYERS

If you are passionate, creative, outgoing, and love meeting new people, the Honors Players could be the group for you! We are a group of talented individuals who value performance and its art. Every semester, the Players host various shows (one-acts, plays, variety shows, etc.) that give students the chance to express their inner creativity.

The group is open to students of all majors, from engineering to marketing and philosophy. Many students were really involved in their high schools' drama programs and want to continue their involvement with the arts, while other students have never performed in front of an audience and want to try something new. And of course, some students are just natural-born actors who want to keep doing what they do best. By joining the Honors Players, you'll get to perform plays that you may have never done before, plays made for college students. The Honors Players program has a rich history, and we want you to be part of it!

CONTACT: Dr. Laura Gronewold // 520.621.9924 // laurag1@email.arizona.edu

XTREME DISCOVERY TEAMS

Xtreme Discovery Teams (XDT) visit local middle schools and high schools to promote higher education. As an XDT member, you will work with your peers to create fun and interactive academic workshops based on your college courses. These activities are often inspired by courses such as psychology, linguistics, physics, astronomy, business, and many more. You and your team will teach these workshops and end each presentation with a Q&A regarding the Honors College, the UA, and college life in general. We are always looking for volunteers from a variety of majors who are genuinely interested in working with middle school and high school students. Look for applications on the Honors website beginning the first week of classes and in the Honors Weekly E-News.

CONTACT: Ashley McClung // ashleym3@email.arizona.edu



WILDCATS AT PLAY: THE HONORS PLAYERS

In the past, the Honors Players acting troupe has fostered a creative home for Honors Wildcats who have focused their studies outside of the performing arts. In Fall 2012, the Honors Players were revived by several Honors students who are passionate about theater and its ability both to entertain audiences and also to challenge audiences intellectually and emotionally. Honors students exemplify interdisciplinarity in their studies and in their co-curricular activities, and the Honors Players are one of the clubs where students literally step into the spotlight on the Slonaker House stage!

In Fall 2012, the Honors Players presented an evening of one-act plays that ranged from a philosophical look at the nature of existence to an old-fashioned whodunit murder mystery. (Hint: the call was coming from outside the house!) A company of 17 actors and five directors led audiences through "The Pleasure of Detachment" by Perry Souchuk, "Naomi in the Living Room" by Christopher Durang, "Linda Her" by

Harry Kondoleon, and "Sorry, Wrong Number" by Lucille Fletcher. We packed the house both nights; because of the success of the fall production we decided to do a spring production, and to add a third performance night!

Our Spring 2013 production was a full-length murder mystery penned by the queen of mystery herself: Agatha Christie. In "And Then There Were None," ten guests are invited to the island home of a wealthy friend. As they become acquainted, they realize that they have been invited for a purpose. On their first evening, a record is played after dinner, and all of the guests are accused of murder. First one is found dead, and then the next ... Audiences raved about the 11 actors who were featured in this gripping mystery, which was co-directed by two Honors students.

One of the exciting changes to the Honors Players this year was having students direct the productions. Honors Junior Diana Andres led the charge to restart the

troupe, recruiting actors, mentoring new directors and new actors, and co-producing the fall plays in consultation with Dr. Laura Gronewold, Program Coordinator for Student Engagement, and Dr. Patrick Baliani, Honors Interdisciplinary Faculty.

With two successful productions behind them, the Honors Players are looking forward to 2013-2014, when they will again produce fall and spring productions. In addition, students will engage in arts outreach in local schools, where they will perform excerpts from the plays. After the mini-performances, Honors Players will talk with middle- and high-school students about the University of Arizona and suggest ways to embrace an interdisciplinary approach to the college experience that showcases an Honors spirit of inquiry. Don't miss the exciting new directions the Honors Players will take next year!

WILDCATS WITH HEART: ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Spring break is all about partying and hanging out with friends at the beach, right? Well, for a group of Honors students living in *Árbol de la Vida*, spring break is all about giving their time to those less fortunate than themselves. For the past two years, a small group of *Árbol de la Vida* residents have devoted their spring break to service. Traveling to San Francisco, California, students dedicated themselves to the issues of HIV/AIDS and homelessness by volunteering for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the San Francisco Food Bank, and Glide Memorial Church. On spring break 2013, students also volunteered one afternoon at the Oakland Children's Hospital in the Beads of Courage program.

In just five short days, students gained many perspectives. They learned about the public health benefits of a needle exchange program with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. They interacted with and served meals to the homeless patrons of Glide Memorial Church's Daily Free Meals program. They stocked and sorted food with the San Francisco Food Bank. And they helped terminally ill children build necklaces of hope at the Oakland Children's Hospital. Through all of these experiences, students broadened their perspective on the human experience, while they also had the chance to "act like a tourist around the city and see as much of San Francisco as possible."

Student trip leader Janine Vanlandingham and Honors staff member and trip advisor Dr. Laura Gronewold worked closely to prepare students for their alternative spring break trip. In several pre-trip meetings, students got to know each other, educated themselves about their volunteering partner organizations, mapped out a driving route, and planned their food budget and menus. In addition, students read several articles and reflected through group discussion on issues of homelessness and the role of service. At the end of the trip, one participant commented, "The most important thing I will take away from the trip is to be grateful for and enjoy everything that I have. Some days I complain about having to go to class or wake up early, but in the end, I am here getting an education and have a place to call home."

The students put their hearts into their volunteering work, but they did not leave their hearts in San Francisco. Rather, they brought their dedication to civic engagement and helping others back to Tucson, where they have continued volunteering locally. Janine Vanlandingham is determined that *Árbol de la Vida* residents will have another trip next year. In fact, she is working with Dr. Gronewold and partnering with ASUA to plan at least two alternative spring break trips for the 2013-2014 academic year! Stay tuned for exciting locations and volunteer opportunities that you can participate in next year—and all while doing some sight-seeing and having a great time with fellow Honors Wildcats.

WHAT I WISH I HAD KNOWN AS A FRESHMAN: A TO Z

Shoulda, coulda, woulda. Everyone's been there, but we want to do everything we can to make sure you don't miss out on a single moment of your time at the UA! Here's what Honors College Ambassador Co-President Tom Wicker had to say:

ADVISORS

We have them for a reason. The Honors advisors are incredibly helpful, so make sure to schedule and stick to your appointments.

BOOKS

Textbooks to be exact. Don't buy them until the semester starts.

CARROT CAKE

This is not your typical Student Union food. It's amazing, and that's all you need to know.

DESERT MUSEUM

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is awesome. It's a zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden all in one!

EIGHT AMS

Not even once. If you can avoid a schedule without a single 8:00 a.m. class, you will thank me later.

FRIDAY CLASSES

See Eight AMs. Be a business major, don't have them. Easy as pie.

GEN EDS

You have your pick of some incredible Honors General Education classes. Do your homework and read up on the professors and course descriptions. My personal favorite was an Honors astronomy class.

HI-CORBETT FIELD

That's where the UA baseball team plays. Don't go to the park on campus.

INVOLVEMENT

You literally have hundreds of clubs and organizations to choose from at the UA. If you can't find something you like, then start your own club! The Harry Potter Alliance did.

JAVELINAS

They're mean, and they smell bad.

KEEP UP WITH YOUR HOBBIES

Academics are important, but they're not everything. Make time for yourself and what you love to do.

LONDON

Say it with me: study abroad scholarship. If you want to travel, there are ways to make it work. I earned a scholarship to study abroad in London during the 2012 Olympics!

MAN V. FOOD

He came, he saw, he ate in Tucson. Know the tour and the great eats: Mi Nidito, Lindy's, and El Guero Canelo.

NEWSPAPER

Our school newspaper is legit. The Arizona Daily Wildcat is packed with news, sports, arts & life, opinions, and the most entertaining piece of all: the Police Beat.

OUTDOORSY STUFF

Biking, hiking, and snowboarding, oh my! No matter what time of year, you'll find Wildcats out and about enjoying all that Tucson has to offer.

PATRICIA MACQUORCODALE

She's our Honors dean! You can stop by Slonaker and see her anytime. Her door is always open.

QUICK

Ferris Bueller wasn't kidding, life DOES move pretty fast. Get involved, go to class, make new friends, and take chances while you can.

RIALTO

This historic theatre is your go-to spot for concerts. Plus, it's a stone's throw away from another historic downtown building: Hotel Congress.

SCORDATO'S PIZZERIA

There are lots of great pizza places in Tucson, but this is my favorite. The name may have changed (it was formerly known as Pizzeria Vivace), but the owner and great pizza are still the same.

TURTLE POND

This is a hidden gem on campus. Go to the southeast corner of Park Avenue and Second Street, and you'll find koi fish, ducks, and turtles lounging in the sun.

UMBRELLA

Two words: monsoon season. Even if it's sunny, you will need one of these.

VARIETY

Remember what I said about taking chances? This is the perfect time to take as many random, interesting classes as possible.

WILKO

Oatmeal. Seven dollars. Oof.

XTREME ULTIMATE FRISBEE

If the sun is out, you'll see students on the mall doing this for hours. And yes, it IS as fun as it looks.

YUMA

My favorite residence hall. It's classic UA. Don't overlook it just because of *Árbol*!

ZONAZOO

Show your school spirit, Honors Wildcats! We're loud, we're proud, and we have the best seats in the house for any UA game.

BY THE NUMBERS

PERSONNEL

 **50** HONORS COLLEGE PROFESSORS

 **29** HONORS COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDING 6 HONORS ADVISORS & A FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

 **6** HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY

COURSES (FALL 2013)

 **50** FIRST YEAR HONORS SEMINARS

 **19** HONORS GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

 **8** HONORS-ONLY COURSES IN MAJORS

 **4** HONORS ELECTIVES INCLUDING HONORS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CLASS & HONORS LEADERSHIP COURSE

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES (2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR)

 **30** NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP INFO SESSIONS

 **28** CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

 **19** ALUMNI CLUB & 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

 **9** FIRST YEAR PROGRAM EVENTS

 **5** CULTURAL & COMMON READING EVENTS

 **5** OTHER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

FIRST YEAR FAVORITES

FAVORITE PLACE TO STUDY

- Árbol study rooms
- The living room at Slonaker
- Heritage Hill
- At the Union across from Cactus Grill
- The Poetry Center or on the Mall in front of the Museum
- On the benches at the Women's Plaza of Honor
- La Petite at Park Student Union

FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS

- The hot dog stands outside
- Cactus Grill
- IQ Fresh for their smoothies
- My Sorority House!
- Pangea!

FAVORITE THING ABOUT TUCSON

- UA campus
- The culture and friendly people
- Local restaurants
- The Wildcat spirit
- The music scene and the diversity
- It's a college town and people support the UA
- HNRS 195H: Human Rights, Democracy, and Dictatorship in Latin America
- Your Own Personal Soundtrack with Dr. John Pollard
- The sunsets
- My Honors colloquium: Russian Authors Writing Alcoholism

FAVORITE HONORS COURSE

- The Art & Science of Decision Making
- Honors General Chemistry and the Honors Colloquia on biomedical ethics
- Advanced critical and analytical writing with Professor Baliani

FAVORITE HONORS EVENT

- The Halloween bash
- Freshman Orientation!
- The Amazing Race hosted by Honors Student Council
- Freshman Class Council. I seriously don't know what I would do if I wasn't in the club.
- Engineering Without Borders
- The 50th anniversary talent show
- The therapy puppies and holiday cookie study break during finals.
- Snowboarding club

FAVORITE CLUB

- Harry Potter Alliance
- University Filmmakers Organization

GET TO KNOW YOUR HONORS RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

ÁRBOL DE LA VIDA RA ADAN GARCIA

Dear New Honors Wildcats,

Welcome to the University of Arizona and the wonderful UA Honors community! If you're reading this letter, you have just thrust yourself forward into the unknown waters of the most exciting part of your life, an ocean teeming with opportunity and unlimited potential. My name is Adan Garcia, and I am a senior political science major and a Resident Assistant (RA) at Árbol de la Vida. As an RA, I serve as an extension of Residence Life in the hall, planning programs, carrying out administrative tasks, laying the blocks for building community, and ensuring that your living environment is conducive to academic success—but that's just the surface of it. Honors RAs are an important resource for you as individuals who have two or three years of experience transitioning to this new stage of life and a goal of making your transition as successful and enjoyable as possible.

Being someone who has lived on campus for four years, I have had the great opportunity of living and working in three different residence halls, meaning that I can say from experience that Árbol is among the best halls on campus. What makes Árbol a special place to live is the diversity of individuals and interests brought together in such a beautifully designed space and the manner in which those forces converge to create a caring, informed, and productive community. Árbol residents are distinct from those in other halls in that they are self-motivated, inquisitive, socially engaged on multiple levels, and they are committed to achieving the most possible for themselves and others. In living and working with bright Honors students, I am constantly impressed by how involved they are not only in Honors College activities, but also in informal discussions, volunteer groups, intramural sports, special-interest fraternities, arts clubs, and hall programs. While no one is expecting you to immerse yourself in more than you can handle, the fact is Honors students know that the greatest learning comes from having multiple perspectives, and they take advantage of opportunities to learn more about themselves and the world.

On a typical weeknight, you will find most Árbol residents studying in one of the hall's many study rooms, conference rooms, or other common areas. If you are the type of person who enjoys having more space when working, all of the wings in the building feature large couches and other movable furniture. When you are looking to take a break from the dazzling, technology-equipped study bridge, you are likely to find an RA or Hall Council-sponsored event happening in one of the great rooms or the recreation room (generally offering free food!). Additionally, many students choose to cook with friends in the rec room kitchen or watch a movie in one of the TV lounges. Short and simple, the best way to get the most out of your Árbol de la Vida experience is to approach it with the same philosophy you have for your overall college experience: take advantage of the many opportunities to meet new people, and above all else, make it fit you!

Best of luck, and always BEAR DOWN!

Adan



YUMA HALL RA DANIELLE OXNAM

Dear New Students,

Greetings! My name is Danielle Oxnam, and I am a Resident Assistant (RA) in Yuma Hall, one of the Honors communities here at the University of Arizona. I am so glad you chose the Honors College. Being a part of the Honors College has many benefits, including specialized scholarships, early course registration, and a variety of study abroad opportunities. Personally, my favorite part about being an Honors student is living in the Honors residence halls on campus. In Yuma Hall, the community revolves around the multifaceted college experience. Our residents are some of the most involved and energetic on campus, many working toward more than one major or engaged in multiple extracurricular clubs and groups. I love the tight community feel in Yuma, where all residents get to know one another throughout the whole building and form friendships that last far beyond college. Home to only 180 residents and one of the historic dorms on campus, Yuma is a cozy home-away-from-home. My favorite parts about being an RA in Yuma are walking down the hall, where residents leave their doors open to socialize, and being able to greet everyone I pass by name.

As the oldest Honors hall on campus, Yuma has a lot of traditions that make it a unique and memorable community. Every year, Yuma hosts its annual Haunted Dungeon around Halloween, where the residents plan for months converting the unused basement into a walk-through haunted house. The Haunted Dungeon brings students from all over campus as well as members of the Tucson community to enjoy a weekend of frights and fun. Yuma also hosts an annual Mr. Yumaverse competition for the male residents to compete and show off their talents. These events, along with casino nights, roommate competitions, and other RA or Hall Council programs, mean that there is at least one community event every week. Having such a vibrant and inclusive environment is the best way to get involved and connected during your first year at the UA!

Yuma is a great place to initiate yourself into college living. On any given night, you can find students cooking in the kitchen, holding study parties in the study rooms, or challenging each other to a game of pool in the rec room upstairs. For the more studious people, the Yuma library is one of the hall's most unique and inviting spaces that is reserved 24/7 for quiet studying. In the students' rooms, spacious closets and sinks make Yuma a stand-out in dorm living. Our residents also love the walled-in courtyard that houses several bike racks, keeping their bikes safe and locked away. No matter whom you are, Yuma Hall offers many fantastic opportunities to get involved on campus and assimilated into college life. Being close to both the Union and classes means that food and academics are always accessible. Take the plunge and immerse yourself in the full college experience! Nothing beats the community feel of Yuma Hall. I hope each and every student who passes through the UA builds their own fantastic memories.

Good luck and Bear Down!

Danielle

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