



UHP Update

California University of PA

March/April 2006

Eddie Joe's Corner: Professionalism

One of the most important characteristics you can develop while here at Cal U and in our UHP (and one of the most difficult to teach) is the general concept of professional behavior. I'm sure you have noticed that media programs like the Today show have been airing more and more segments about how under-prepared "today's youth" are at presenting themselves professionally at job interviews. Instead, these reports are portraying young job-seekers as "spoiled" individuals who expect everything to be handed to them—they have no understanding of how the "real world" operates. Of course, I recognize this as a variation of the old saw we have all heard from the previous generations: "things were better (tougher) when I was in school."

After our recent excursion to the Dibner library, a truly academic, professional setting, I am pleased to say that our select group of honors students represented our UHP and Cal U exceedingly well.

The Dibner participants dressed professionally; they addressed the Dibner librarians respectfully and patiently; and they showed genuine appreciation for the extraordinary opportunity that was provided for them. From the moment we walked in the Dibner Library, it was clear that a sense of awe had befallen our group. Everyone recognized that they were involved in a truly special experience, an experience that they may never be able to duplicate. As a result, they treated their interaction with the Dibner Library and its curators with the respect they clearly deserved.

I have no doubt that our Dibner participants will be enormously successful after they leave Cal U. They have boldly taken advantage of a very special opportunity, and they have conducted themselves with the utmost professional demeanor. As members of an honors program family, we all have to deal with those who would hastily judge honors students as "unappreciative" or even "spoiled."

I have always been able to look those individuals in the eye and respond, "not our honors students." I would like to thank the Dibner participants for making my response more meaningful than ever. Kudos to everyone involved in this year's Dibner Library experience and our science interdisciplinary centerpiece curriculum. My special thanks to Erin Mountz and Kim Orslene for all of their logistical arrangements that enabled everything to go so smoothly. Thanks as well to Gregg Gould and Kim Woznack for helping with all the scientific material.

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And of course we cannot
forget our ever-
dedicated supporters

Dr. Ed Chute, Professor
Erin Mountz, and the
wonderful Mrs. Kim
Orslene



*Bern Dibner, founder of the
Dibner Library*

*How did the recent Dibner
Excursion impact your
fellow students? Read Leigh
Ann's article to find out.*

Dibner Memories

By Leigh Ann Walters

Every spring, members of our UHP anxiously embark upon an excursion based on the thematic curriculum. This year's curriculum led the UHP to explore Washington, D.C. with the focal point of the trip being a visit to the Dibner Library. Each year these students are given an itinerary that outlines a list of the attractions that the trip will feature. What the itinerary does not outline is the impact that this academic experience has on all of the students that attend one of these phenomenal trips. Ray Boyles, a senior information technology major said the trip "Created an experience that will stay with me the rest of my life," and many other students shared his enthusiasm.

What is so unique about this experience is that it impacts each student in a different way. For students enrolled in the Composition II, that have centered their research projects around one of the library's infamous "Heralds of Science," the trip was the capstone experience to their research. The trip also left its impression on Dr. Gould's students that are currently enrolled in Scientific Inquiry. Ashley Wiseman, junior Liberal Arts major, has centered her project for the centerpiece course on Charles Coulomb's book, *Laws of Attraction*. Ashley was actually able to look through the book and she even got a chance to snap picture with this amazing primary source. Steve Weiss, a junior History major and a new member to our program was able to experience a spring this year for the first time. "As a new member to the Honors Program, the Dibner Excursion was quite the experience. The Dibner Library itself was remarkable with its collection of rare, primary sources," said Weiss

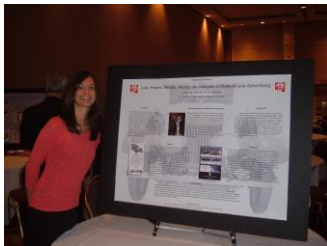
Students were also able to take advantage of many of the amazing sightseeing opportunities Washington, D.C has to offer. Attractions such as the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Capitol Building, White House, Holocaust Museum and the Smithsonian Museums were specific places that many students visited on the trip. Another exciting event occurring at the same time of our visit was the Cherry Blossom Festival. Rachel Evans, a junior Elementary/Special Education major said, "We were fortunate enough to have exquisite weather which helped us enjoy the beautiful Cherry Blossoms and the festivities that the areas provides in honor of the special weekend." An additional attraction that some students visited was the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. "The sight of the Basilica's architecture alone was intriguing and once inside, the detail of the art was breathtaking. As a Baptist attending my first Catholic mass, I was a bit nervous, but with the help of my new friends Valerie McCullough, Mike Molchan, and Becky Rozak the experience was one that I will never forget," said Steve Weiss.

This year's visit to Washington, D.C. was truly a wonderful academic and social experience. Special thanks goes out to all of the UHP work-study students that worked on the itineraries, to Mrs. Orslene for planning such a wonderful trip and to Dr. Chute, Professor Mountz, Dr. Gould and Professor Woznack for taking us on an academic experience that none of us will soon forget!

Special Events: NCHC Conference By Valerie McCullough



On April 8th, 2006, six honors program students, Samantha Brown, Chelsea Mahosky, Valerie McCullough, Michael Molchan, Leigh Ann Walters, and Ashley Wiseman, along with Dr. Chute and Prof. Mountz, attended the North East National Collegiate Honors Council Conference held at the Pittsburgh Hilton. The theme for this conference was Renaissance-Re-creation-Recovery.



The six students and two professors submitted and had accepted two roundtable discussions based around the theme of the conference which they presented on Saturday April 9th. The two roundtables were entitled Recreation and Self-Discovery: Shared Responsibility in Learning Between Faculty and Students and Rebirth, Review, and Revitalization Through and Centerpiece Honors Curriculum. Recreation and Self-Discovery discussed the Honors Program's use of learning packets and how students are responsible for their own learning for a semester and how faculty act as coaches or mentors rather than strict professors. Rebirth, Review, and Revitalization focused on our 3 year rotation honors curriculum and the spring excursion and how the students benefit from this type of curriculum.



Additionally, Michael Molchan and Ashley Wiseman submitted and had accepted individual papers which they presented and read aloud on Saturday. Michael's paper was entitled *Ex Orbis Terrarum ut Luna: The Journey from Science-Fiction to Reality*. His paper

evaluated the HBO mini-series *From the Earth to the Moon* and its impact on historical film making. Ashley's paper was entitled *Window of Color: The Symbolic Function of the Girl in the Red Coat in Spielberg's Schindler's List*. Her paper focused on Spielberg's use of a girl in a red coat in the black and white film *Schindler's List* and how the little girl came to represent that the Holocaust was an actual event.

To conclude the conference, on Sunday April 9th, Michael Molchan and Valerie McCullough each presented an individual poster. Mike's poster was entitled *Students Mentoring Faculty: Resurrecting Old Knowledge into New Format* and showed how he was able to create PowerPoint presentations to incorporate visual arts into an honors classroom. Valerie's poster was called *Lust, Power, Wealth, Nudity: An Analysis of Rolls-Royce's Advertising* and showed how Rolls-Royce uses nude advertisements to provoke lust for wealth and power in the viewer of Rolls-Royce advertisements. Both posters are now being displayed in the honors resource room.

Congratulations to all of the participants for their acceptance into an honors conference! Also, be on the look out for future updates about the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference to be held in Philadelphia in November. All of these same students and some others submitted individual and group work for the national conference and word of their acceptances should be arriving during the summer.



Honors Advisory Board Highlight on Dr. Gould Interview by Emily Crowe ed.

UHP Update: Could you please talk a little about where, how, when, and why you got your degree(s).

Dr. Gould: As a child I was always fascinated with science and my brother and I particularly enjoyed chemistry experiments. In high school I had an outstanding chemistry teacher and found that I had a good aptitude for chemistry so I chose that as my major in college.

In May of 1983 I received a B.A. in Chemistry from Colgate University. As I reached the midpoint of my senior year it was clear to me that I was not yet ready to enter the work world on a full time basis since I still wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do. The idea of being a college professor had crossed my mind. I'd need a PhD for that and so I applied to graduate school.

I earned my PhD in Analytical Chemistry in March of 1988 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Over the course of my years in graduate school, particularly early on, I had serious doubts about whether it was the right place for me. Fortunately I had an excellent research advisor and his guidance and interactions with other students allowed me to rejuvenate my excitement in chemistry. Not insignificant was the fact that I met my future wife, a fellow graduate student in chemistry, while at Chapel Hill and we were married in my third year of grad school.

UHP: What brought you to California? How did you get involved with the Honors Program?

DG: My first job after graduate school was in the research department of an aerospace company in Los Angeles. When I left graduate school I had in mind a career as a faculty member at a small undergraduate college but I wanted to get some "real world" experience before entering that career. I worked in aerospace for two years and then started applying for faculty positions at colleges where teaching was the top priority. My wife is from West Virginia and I grew up in upstate New York so I looked particularly hard for positions in the east (as opposed to around the state of California). The position available at California was particularly attractive to me because the department was comprised of primarily senior faculty members and thus it was apparent that the department would undergo a complete rejuvenation of faculty as retirees were replaced.

Fairly early in my years at Cal U (mid 90's) I was invited to join the Honors Board by Dr. Charles Schuler from the Applied Engineering and Technology Department. Dr. Schuler had been involved with the Honors Program under the

Continued on next page

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A great big thank you goes out to Dr. Gould for his efforts in Scientific Inquiry this semester and his dedicated work on the Honors Advisory Board.

former director, Jay Powell. When the Honors program director position came available I was considering applying for it until I met Eddie Joe. Upon a review of Eddie Joe's credentials it was clear to me that I did not yet have sufficient experience to be looking at the director's position.

UHP: What do you think is the most important aspect and outcome of one's participation in the Honors Program?

DG: I believe that the Honors program at Cal U is a wonderful example of the interplay between opportunity and responsibility. The Honors Program provides students with a wide variety of excellent opportunities for their education. However, these opportunities guarantee absolutely nothing unless students accept the responsibility to take advantage of them and work at them. Put another way, the Honors Program should remind students of the old adage that, "You get out of life what you put into it." This is certainly true of the education available in the Honors Program.

UHP: Could you talk a little about how the Dibner excursion first got started and how Scientific Inquiry came to be?

DG: The Scientific Inquiry course was created by Dr. Charles Schuler in the early 1990's. I was not involved in the creation of this class, but I did volunteer to teach it after Dr. Schuler's retirement. As a firm believer in the liberal arts model, I thought I'd like a chance to teach a broad-based, general education style, science course.

The Dibner project was certainly more Eddie Joe's inspiration (or perhaps Beth Fitch's) than mine. I was a willing participant and it seems the idea grew out of a conversation that Eddie Joe, Beth and I had some months before a semester in which Dr. Fitch was to teach a History of Science course, Eddie Joe was to teach Honors Comp II and I was to teach Scientific Inquiry. The idea was put forth to link all three classes with a trip to the Dibner Library. I believe Eddie Joe had the connection (or established it) at the Dibner Library.

UHP: What did you enjoy most about the recent Dibner excursion?

DG: What I have always most enjoyed about travel with students is the fact that the standard social structure of faculty member and student becomes relaxed and interactions among all the participants become more "equal." It is really fun to dine, travel the Metro, and visit museums with the students. I liked getting to know the students away from the classroom and I hope that they, too, enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some of the faculty outside the classroom.

UHP: Do you have any additional comments, quotes, wisdom, etc. you would like to share?

DG: It is a great pleasure to be a part of the Honors Program. The energy, enthusiasm, and cleverness of the students keeps me on my toes!



*“EMBRACE YOUR
NERDINESS!”*

Student Spotlight on Recent Graduate Caroline Rice **By Valerie McCullough**

“It made me feel like I had a leg up on the other people I was graduating with.” This is Caroline Rice’s reflection of the California University of PA’s Honors Program and how it affected her upon graduation. Caroline is a fall 2005 graduate and many of you may remember her as one of the work studies always sitting outside of the honors offices.

Recently, I was able to talk to Caroline about her experiences in the Honors Program and what she has done for her now that she has graduated college. When I asked her what she is doing now and how the Honors Program has helped her, she said this: “I’m still waiting to hear back from grad schools, but it has helped me get a job. Every place I’ve interviewed so far has asked about that and my SSHE Scholarship, and the writing skills I’ve picked up from the program certainly don’t hurt.”

Many students never finish the honors program for one reason: their thesis. Obviously, Caroline completed a thesis and has some helpful advice for those unsure about theirs: “As for the thesis, pick a good committee. Make sure your advisor is someone you can find, that you like, and meet with them often. Pick a topic that you’re really

interested in, because you’ll be reading about 3 tons of books about it.” She also said, “Another word of advice, if you need a recommendation letter from Dr. Chute, ask him as soon as possible.”

Currently Caroline is applying to various graduate schools, like WVU, Duquesne, and Chatham for multimedia programs. She spends most of her time playing hockey, playing World of Warcraft, and practicing her violin because she is a member of the Washington Symphony Orchestra. She also is in the process of finding temporary summer employment until she hears back from the different grad schools. Her final words of advice: “Embrace your nerdiness, kids.”

Birthday Crossword

By Lauren Horner

See next page for
the actual puzzle

Page 7

ACROSS:

1. The Welsh spelling of the word March.
2. This bit of space debris came closest to the earth on March 22, 1997.
3. This concentration camp was liberated April 29, 1945.
4. His crew made it around the world but he didn't; Magellan died on April 27, 1521 during the _____.
5. Spring forward? This went into effect in the United States for the first time on March 31, 1918.
6. Along with National Frozen Foods Month and Optimism Month, March is also designated National _____ Month, to help us get through those April Showers.
7. April's flowers are the daisy and the _____.
8. Sad, but true: in order to help public schools create balanced meal plans, this was declared a vegetable on March 9, 1981.
9. President George Washington used this power for the first time in the history of the United States on April 5, 1792.
10. During April 1985, Coca-Cola changed its 99 year old soda formula to a sweeter version, called _____. It was a total flop.
11. John Lennon claimed that the Beatles were more famous than this historical figure on March 4, 1966.
12. On March 1, 1692, this famous event (which lasted for over a year) began in a little town in Massachusetts.

Happy Birthday January and February

March: Brian Braithwaite, Joseph Foster, Emily Goff, Gertrud Huessy, Danielle Hughes Briand Jacox, Jonathan Leber, Timothy March, Valerie McCullough, Shannon McFate, Hilary Moss, Kyle Olmstead, Eric Reger, Jennifer Scapes, Erica Smeltzer, Amy Wohar

April: Kayla Flowers, Meighen Hopton, Aric Ilko, Eric Mills, Ashley Palmer, Joseph Rubel, Alyse Yanuskiewicz, Kateri Zucker

DOWN:

1. April is known as National _____ Month. What a feeling!
2. The United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to establish this on March 16, 2006. The United States has boycotted it.
3. Many memorable hoaxes have occurred on April Fool's Day, including a 1998 claim by Burger King that the company was going to begin producing _____.
4. Warner Brothers debuted the first three-dimensional movie in April of 1953. This is its name.
5. Great Britain adopted this as its national flag during April of 1602.
6. During one of these shows which made use of blackface, the song "Dixie" premiered on April 4, 1859.
7. Iran and several other countries celebrate _____, or New Year's Day, in March.
8. March was originally the first month of the Roman calendar because the winter months of January and February were unsuited for _____.

* all facts from Wikipedia.com

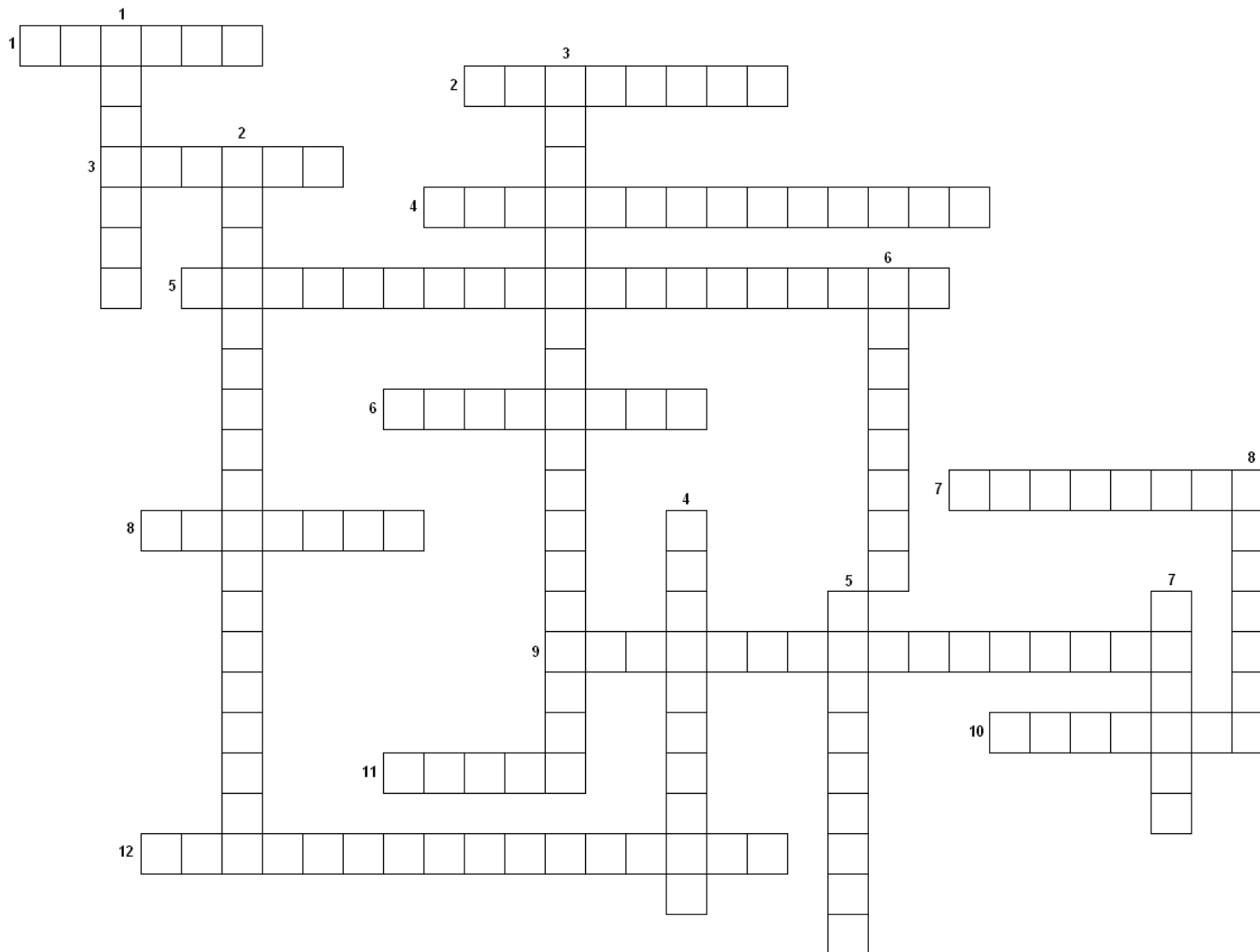
March Birthdays:

Ovid (March 20, 43)
Cyrano de Bergerac (March 6, 1619)
Georg Philipp Telemann (March 15, 1681)
Desi Arnaz (March 2, 1917)
Astrud Gilberto (March 30, 1940)

April Birthdays:

Raphael (April 6, 1483)
Leonhard Euler (April 15, 1707)
Ma Rainey (April 26, 1886)
Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein (April 26, 1889)
Conan O'Brien (April 18, 1963)

See previous page for puzzle clues



Prove how smart you are. Print this page and be the first to solve the puzzle. Bring it in to the Honors Program office and receive a special prize!

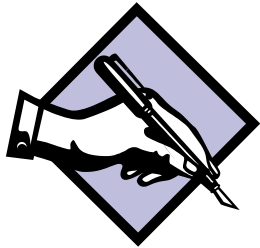


Appetamus communiter ad futurum.—Dr. Chute

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UHP



“Funga A La Feeya”

The Last Word: “Funga A La Feeya” By Emily Crowe (ed.)

It has been a good semester. It has been a stressful semester, but a good one nonetheless. A lot has been going on in and around our honors program. Excitement is building about next year’s PA-SSHE Summer Honor’s Program, the resource room is just about up and running, our dedicated Update staff have finally begun some great work that we aspire to continue in semesters to come, and another round of Freshmen become Sophomores. Life is good.

For me, life is rapidly changing. This summer I will live, for the first time, in my very own dorm room complete

Purpose

The Honors Program at California University of Pennsylvania provides an opportunity for an enhanced educational experience to our most talented students and faculty. Honors Program students desire to pursue intellectual and creative growth beyond the usual requirements of their major field of study and intend to cultivate their individual and personal aspirations to learn. Honors Program students and faculty expect to explore and participate in scholarly, professional, and artistic exercises outside the classroom; they engage in community service activities, which complement their academic studies and nurture their personal sense of commitment and communal responsibility. Honors students anticipate exercising leadership while at California University; they prepare to become leaders while students in our program, and they expect to continue as leaders when they graduate.

with roommate for one week, I will take my first airplane flight, and I will travel and study abroad for the first time in my life. Then I will see, firsthand, a developing country and come back with a renewed appreciation for what I have.

I want to encourage everyone to apply for next year’s PA-SSHE summer honors program to be hosted by our very own honors program. The interview process is an experience unto itself but as the date of *Kingdoms, Nation Building, and Democracy* draws nearer, I find I can hardly contain my excitement. If you are considering applying for *Mirabile*

Inventu next year, start soon. Begin thinking about who will write your letters (and that is a very important decision), what you will write in your essay, and how this experience will change you. Stay tuned next semester; I’m sure you will be hearing from Mike Molchan and I about our experiences.

I will leave you with a traditional Ghanaian greeting chant, I sing “*Funga a la feeya.*” and you respond “*Ashay. Ashay.*”

“I welcome you into my heart today.”

Thanks everyone, have a great summer and see you next semester!