



UCI Campuswide Honors Program

Life in Honors

Fall 2016

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Hamid Abuwarda

What is the CHP? A student's perspective

Hamid Abuwarda is a 3rd year Biological Sciences major. He gave the following speech to welcome entering CHP freshmen at the Honors Orientation this past September.

Every honors student must eventually answer the question, "What is the CHP?" While I can't tell you what the "correct answer" is—because it simply doesn't exist—I will tell you my answer. What I've found about my time at UCI is that we live in a limbo of correct and incorrect. While answers do

matter, the discussion that gets you to an answer is just as valuable, if not more. For me, being an honors student is about that discussion: being able to engage with each other as a community, as a team.

Each and every one of us is a part of that team, and if you want to play the game of college, you have to be a team player. First, some ground rules: If someone tells you they are stressed, hear them out because we all need a buddy once in a while. Don't be afraid to engage in thoughtful discourse with each other; it's okay to disagree. Having respectful debates allows us to build off one another! Finally, remember to enjoy your time with the team! The CHP offers so many opportunities to have fun, from Coffee Hour to Battle of the Brains to retreat. Ultimately, these are ways that you are going to grow, creating better versions of yourselves and of your peers.

While you may feel lost at times and think that college is intimidating, know that it's okay to feel this way. Just remember that you have a team—and the CHP has your back.

CHP Alumni Holiday Luncheon December 11, 2016

You are invited to the CHP's annual alumni holiday get together on **Sunday, December 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Newkirk Alumni Center. The theme is Ugly Holiday Sweater, so come decked out in your ugliest one! We'll provide the main dish and drinks so all you need to bring is a side dish to share:

- Even grad years - bring side dishes or salads
- Odd grad years - bring appetizers or desserts

Please RSVP to the evite, Facebook event, or to honors@uci.edu, and let us know what you'll be bringing.

We hope you can join us!

Thank You, CHP Donors!

Your generous contributions are helping us provide the best honors education and experience you can get—anywhere—to CHP students! These include great CHP traditions like Coffee Hour, the annual camping retreat, attendance at arts and other special events, and more! Your gifts are directly benefiting CHP students, and we thank you sincerely!



CHP Faculty Director Ted Wright chats with students at Coffee Hour.

Alumni Spotlight – Troy Campbell



Troy Campbell ('09, Psychology and Social Behavior) knows how being a well-rounded CHP student with many different interests can translate into a cutting-edge career. An Assistant Professor of Marketing at the University of Oregon, Troy was named by *Pacific Standard* as one of the “30 Top Thinkers Under 30” and is the 2016 recipient of the *Frank Award for Best Research in Social Change*. He is best known in his field for research on “solution aversion,” a phenomenon where people “deny a problem, not based on the problem itself, but because of the solutions.”

Troy chose UCI because of his desire to “explore everything.” The CHP core courses allowed him to investigate a breadth of topics and to see them in relationship to one another, which is what he continues to do today. His favorite course was Social Science

Core with Professors Stanford and Barrett: “I was taking that class on logic and psychology; at the same time I was in my first upper division psychology class, and it was an incredibly transformative experience....It also showed me one thing: knowledge in one area is not limited to that area.” It is precisely this interdisciplinarity that underlies Troy’s creative work as a professor: “Some days I talk to the EPA about messaging around climate change, and other days I talk to the Chicago Bulls about their fandom behaviors, and other days I help with museum design, and at the end I am writing and researching about it all. The CHP really combined the Research I university atmosphere with the broad liberal arts education that made me happy then and helped me be happier now.”

It was the CHP community that ultimately had the biggest impact on Troy. He has particularly fond memories of working on videos for Battle of the Brains, attending CHP theater outings, living in AV 1006, and playing on the CHP indoor soccer team. At the heart of his experience were his fellow CHP students: “The best thing about the CHP is that you are constantly surrounded by smart, fun, nice people. The greatest influence on people is other people. People make us better, worse, happier, sadder, more informed, more biased, give us hope, or take it away. The CHP succeeds because it surrounds you with great people.”

It’s not a far leap from Troy’s interest in the power of human relationships to one of his teaching interests: “Everything Can Be Awesome.” In this course he “examines the idea that there are a handful of psychological principles that can help make anything great.... For instance, if you understand physics you can make a great theme park, but if you understand physics and psychology you can make an awesome one.” Troy is planning a research and book project on “Everything Can Be Awesome,” and in addition to his scholarship, has contributed to various popular national publications. For more information on Troy’s many projects, visit his website at troycampbell.weebly.com.

New CHP Staff Profiles



Meet one of our new Honors Advisors, **Karissa Perez!**

Karissa, an alumna of Cal Poly Pomona ('13, Liberal Studies), joined our staff in the summer of 2015 after receiving her Master’s Degree in College Counseling/Student Development from Azusa Pacific University.

She is a major foodie and enjoys discovering all that Orange County and the city of Irvine have to offer.



Meet our newest Honors Advisor, **Theresa Nguyen!**

Theresa, who joined the staff this year, is an alumna of UCI and the CHP ('05, English). She received her Master’s Degree in English Studies at the University of Cambridge and is currently completing a Ph.D. in Literary Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She practically “lived” in the Locus during her undergrad years with the CHP and is very excited to return as an honors advisor.



Meet **Rachel Roberts**, our new Office Manager!

Rachel is an alumna of UCI and the CHP ('14, English with an emphasis in Creative Writing). As an undergraduate, she worked as a Student Assistant in the CHP office. She returns to us from USCD where she has been working in student affairs.

Rachel hails from San Diego but is thrilled to return to UCI, which she considers her second home.

CHP Alumni Updates

Lauren Aragon ('14) started a new position as a Sales Operations Specialist with Salesforce.

Charmaine Archer ('16) is pursuing at J.D. at Harvard Law School.

Alexander Ball ('12) is pursuing an M.P.H. at Columbia, after which he will return to his medical studies at Stanford.

Jocelyne Bruand ('05) is working as a Bioinformatics Scientist at Illumina.

Asthrea Camilon ('14) is working as an Assistant Language Teacher in English in Hirosaki, Japan through the Japan Exchange & Teaching Program.

Colin Campbell ('12) is pursuing a M.D. at USC Keck School of Medicine.

Stephanie Chang ('16) is working as a software engineer with Boeing in Huntington Beach.

Irene Chen ('16) will begin working as an R.N. in Southern California this fall.

Rachel Cheng ('10) completed her Ph.D. in History at the University of Glasgow.

Alex Coombs ('12) completed her Master's in Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is working as a program officer on the AIDSFree Project at John Snow, Inc. in Washington, D.C.



Alex Ball & Alex Coombs at her M.P.H. graduation

David Cuccia ('02) is the CEO and CTO of Modulated Imaging. His innovative work on medical imaging has recently been profiled in UCI Applied Innovation's publication *Currents*.

Jeff Fulkerson ('07) and **Emily Yee** ('07) welcomed son, Jaden Elliott, in August.



Jaden Elliot Fulkerson

Stephanie Hammel ('12) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and Policy at Duke University.

Jennifer Hsia ('04) recently started working as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology at Alliant University's California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles.

Brian Jow ('14) is pursuing a D.D.S. at UCLA.

Elizabeth Klueger ('11) completed her Pharm.D. at USC.

Nancy Lam ('15) is working as a software engineer with Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.

Mark Lawrence ('04) is working with Palladium: Make It Possible as an operations manager for international trade and development projects in South Africa and Papua New Guinea.

Katherine Lee ('16) is working as a media technician for the Irvine Unified School District.

Monica E. McCallum ('11) completed her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Baylor University and is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University.

Regan Norris ('00) moved to Pittsburgh with her family where her husband is a lecturer in Economics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Christopher Reaves ('03) completed his J.D. at Washington University Law School and now works in patent law. He is married with one child.

Lauren Sakakibara ('11) has returned to U.S. after having worked in Japan first as an Assistant Language Teacher in English through the Japan Exchange & Teaching Program and then at a women's university in Tokyo.

Anastasia Shuba ('14) completed her M.S. in Computer Engineering and is continuing in that same field by pursuing a Ph.D. at UCI.

Mika Smith ('13) is working as office manager and events coordinator at the start-up Collab.

Roxanne Talamayan-Pascua ('13) is pursuing an M.D./M.B.A. at UCI where she is doing her 3rd-year rotation at the UCI Medical Center.

Christina (Luiz) Treble ('06) and husband Chris welcomed their son, Oliver Michael Treble, on Nov. 16, 2016.



Oliver Michael Treble

Jessica (Morreale) Therkelsen ('06) was named one of the ABA's 2016 Top 40 Young Lawyers on the Rise and was a featured alumna in USF's *Lawyer Magazine*. She recently attended the UN Summit on Refugees.

Thi Tran ('16) is pursuing a J.D. at USC Gould School of Law.

Carol Tsai ('11) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry at UCSB and published a paper in *ACS Macromolecules*. She is also pursuing a Masters in Music Performance, and has performed in Opera Santa Barbara's productions of *Suor Angelica* and *Carmen*.

Jerrold Vincent ('12) moved to Arizona with his wife to work as a Systems Analyst doing Business Intelligence and Data Analytics for a nuclear power plant. He is also pursuing an M.S. in Computer Science at John Hopkins.

CHP Alumni Board News

We are pleased to announce the election of the new officers of the CHP Alumni Chapter Board, which is comprised of returning and new board members. Thank you to the candidates who ran for Board positions and to all of you who voted in this election.

One of the main duties of the Board is to connect alumni by hosting various events throughout the year such as the upcoming Holiday Potluck on December 11th. The Board welcomes all alumni to participate in organizing these events. Please email Dr. Roetzel at roetzel@uci.edu if interested in volunteering.

Congratulations to:

Julia Emerson ('97), President

Wayne Sung ('99), Vice President of Community Outreach

Marlo Yonocruz ('13), Vice President of Finance

Tiffany Yu ('11), Vice President of Membership and Programs

Alison Ozaki ('11), Secretary



Alumni Holiday Party Planning Meeting

In Memoriam

The CHP is saddened to announce that longtime CHP Alumni Board officer **Erica "Rika" Stelcik** ('96) has passed away. Erica's generosity and grace in hosting alumni events brought many CHP alumni together.

CHP Ambassadors Reach Out to Prospective Students

Do you remember applying to colleges and universities and having to make that all-important choice? We're glad you chose UCI and the CHP! The CHP staff works every year to provide information to prospective students and parents during the college admissions season. This year they are being assisted by eight new CHP Ambassadors. These CHP students, representing a variety of majors, interests, and class years, are helping to reach out to prospective students, answer their questions, and will be working at admissions-related events and programs this year. Meet two of our CHP Ambassadors who, coincidentally, are siblings of CHP alumni:



Rosalind Ball

Rosalind "Rosie" Ball is the Vice President of the Campuswide Honors Program Student Council. (CHSC) She is a 2nd year Mathematics major and is originally from the Bay Area. One aspect of the CHP that she enjoys is that the program "enables you to find a group of people of varying ages with a similar academic mindset." She loves to dance and has been active in the UCI dance community. Last year she was on a hip-hop crew called Urban Motus and this year is a member of the UCI Dance Team/Spirit Squad.

Michael Fu is a 4th year Business Administration major with an Accounting minor. He hails from Irvine, and decided to "stay local" and attend UCI because of the CHP. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, the UCI Accounting Association, and is preparing to attend law school. Michael has tutored and coached high school students (basketball), and particularly enjoys the CHP community that "continually comes together and builds each other up."



Michael Fu



You can make a difference!

Donate to the CHP today:

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