



Life in Honors

Fall 2017

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New Honors Course Track: Sustainable Societies

Strengthening the Campuswide Honors Program and making its benefits available to more students has become a priority for the campus and was embodied in the five-year strategic plan that Chancellor Gillman released last year. This is a strong vote of confidence in the CHP!

In response to the desire to grow the program, the CHP has launched a new, second honors track open to all majors called Sustainable Societies. Taken after completing Honors Humanities Core in the freshman year, this new track consists of six sequential courses that are taken as an alternative to the “classic” track: the Honors Social Science and Science core sequences. (Of course, those offerings will continue.) This year’s first intrepid group of 30 students are excited about the course; next year, we hope to attract at least 100 students into the new sequence.

The Sustainable Societies track is team-taught by top faculty from a variety of disciplines and examines the topic from two broad perspectives:

- Exploring the features of societies/nations that lead some to prosperity, freedom, and a high quality of life, while others decline; demonstrating how innovation, prosperity, flexibility, and a forward-thinking perspective allow societies to address challenges effectively.
- Exploring the underpinnings of several of the challenges that modern societies currently face and, importantly, engaging students to work together on solutions to these challenges.

The Sustainable Societies courses were planned from the start as a two-year, interdisciplinary sequence. The courses use problem-based learning in which students work together to develop their ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and collaborate in groups to tackle complex, real-world problems for which there is no single solution. Each course is team taught by faculty from different disciplines (e.g., Anthropology and Chemistry) who can model the productive debate that occurs when a problem is viewed from their perspectives. Research experiences provided within the track will help prepare students for their senior-year thesis projects.

Alumni Board Updates:

CHP Alumni Holiday Potluck December 10, 2017

Catch up with your CHP family and be a champion at our 2017 alumni holiday potluck & winter games!

Play in our own series of Olympic-themed mini games!

Contribute to our charity drive for families in need!

Learn more and RSVP by December 6 via our evite (<http://evite.me/qbMkBnj5VC>).

New website launches for CHP alumni and students

We are excited to announce the launch of the new CHP Alumni Board website!

Alumni can visit the site to discover opportunities to get involved and to share their stories with current CHP students.

Students can visit to see what alumni share and to see how to connect with CHP alumni.

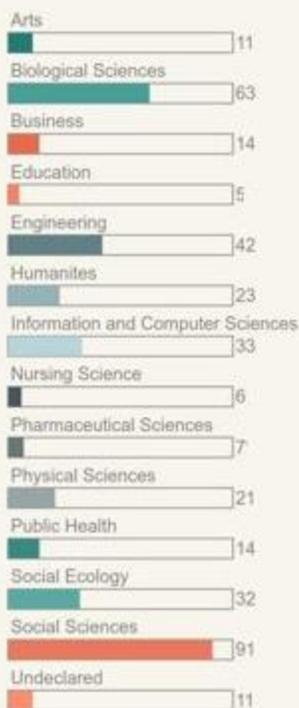
<https://ucihonorsalumni.wixsite.com/ucihonorsalumni>

CHP NEW STUDENT Factoids

The Campuswide Honors Program welcomed 373 new students for the 2017-2018 academic year, the largest incoming class to date!

THE BREAKDOWN

Schools Represented



View the full breakdown at <http://bit.ly/2017chpnewstudents>

Thank You, CHP Donors!

Campuswide Honors Program students benefit directly from the support of donors, and we thank you for everything you do for the program! Your gifts help fund CHP signature events and programs, support scholarships, and help us give students special opportunities, such as attendance at academic conferences and opportunities to network with leaders in business and industry. The CHP's excellence is a reflection of the many people – alumni, parents, students, faculty and friends – who care deeply about honors students at UCI. Thank you sincerely for your support!

New Student Profile: Bria Beale

First-year Biological Sciences major Bria Beale chose UCI to pursue both her athletic goals as an NCAA Women's Volleyball team member and her academic goals as a member of the Campuswide Honors Program (CHP). Like Bria, many top-tier students have been drawn to UCI with the promise of a supportive, challenging, and rewarding academic experience in the CHP. "The best thing about CHP is definitely the support and resources they provide. The amount of support that I feel from the older CHP members, my peers, and especially the faculty is very important to me and extremely reassuring," explained Bria.



CHP first-year Bria Beale

Bria has found a welcoming community in the CHP: "My favorite CHP experience so far was the bonfire. I found an amazing group of friends who share interests with me. I am really looking forward to coffee hours and study sessions with my new CHP peers. I also want to attend the faculty versus student trivia competition this spring."

As if being an NCAA athlete and CHP student were not enough, Bria is enthusiastic about taking advantage of other opportunities for involvement that UCI has to offer. In addition to broadening her academic scope by adding a minor in Criminology, Law and Society, Bria plans to find new ways to connect to the UCI campus by joining student organizations.

When she is not busy in class or practice, Bria can be found studying at the UCI Athletics Al Irwin Academic Center, baking cookies for her hall in Mesa Court, or singing karaoke with her roommates. Bria's meticulous planning keeps her organized, allows her to stay balanced with academic and social engagements, and helps her set ambitious goals. Just a short time into her first quarter at UCI, Bria is already looking to the future. Considering her CHP research and thesis she says, "I plan to do research on biological factors that influence emotion and memory," and she hopes to give back to the CHP by becoming a Peer Academic Advisor later in her UCI career.

You can come out and support Bria by attending a UCI Women's Volleyball game. Learn more at <http://ucirvinesports.com/index.aspx?path=wvball>.

CHP alumni updates

Joe Barton ('17) has been commissioned in the US Air Force. He is seeking his J.D. from Washington & Lee University School of Law in hopes of serving in Judge Advocate General Corps.

Richard Brutchey ('00) was promoted to full professor (Professor of Chemistry at USC) this year. He and his family also welcomed daughter Alice Brutchey on October 6, 2017.



Lillian and new baby sister Alice Brutchey.

Elena Clemenccon-Charles ('14) completed her Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University in May 2017, which involved a project with the Southeastern Wind Coalition. She has since moved to Chicago where she works as an energy products analyst for AEP Energy.

Mariyam Habeeb ('16) has begun attending Quinnipiac University School of Medicine in pursuit of her M.D.

Julia Hillendahl ('15) is now a Design Assistant with Ambrosia Interior Design in Irvine.

Marla Goodfellow ('14) recently earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the Western University of Health Sciences. She is now working at Canyon Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canoga Park.

Jonathan Larson ('17) is working towards his Master of Arts in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics at UCI.

Katherine Lee ('16) is working for the Irvine Unified School District managing study materials inventory for all district sites while she prepares to apply to business school and cares for her two smart, cute betta fish.

David Liu ('14) is pursuing his M.D. at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and his M.Ed. at Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

Steven Lo ('14) has started work as an Electrical Engineer for Integrated Magnetics in Tucson, Arizona.

Alice (Chyan) Lugo ('12) graduated with her Pharm.D. from UCSF in 2016 and is now a pharmacist for California Poison Control. She and fellow CHP alum, **Cristian Lugo** ('11), are married.

Jefferson Luong ('16) is attending the UCSD School of Pharmacy in pursuit of his Pharm.D.

Anh Nguyen ('16) has kept busy between graduation and medical school by working part-time as a medical assistant at a surgeon's office, serving as coordinator of the Level V Origins UCI dance team, going on a medical mission to Vietnam, and serving as a family head at a high school leadership camp. She is now attending medical school at Case Western Reserve University.

Tiffany Nguyen ('16) is working towards her M.D. at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Patrick Nutter ('15) has been seeking professional experience through internships with U.S. Congresswoman Julia Brownley and the Air Force General Counsel in addition to pursuing his J.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. In his free time he has run two half-marathons, taken up CrossFit, and learned how to make fresh pasta.

Jacqueline Osegueda ('17) started as Medical Education Coordinator for UCI's Family Medicine Residency Program in August 2017.

Jenny Ouyang ('17) was featured in [Nevada Today](#) for receiving an NSF grant to research the effect urbanization on birds. Jenny is an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jennifer Pearce ('17) is pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition, Healthspan, and Longevity at USC.

Adam Poe ('11) graduated from UC Davis in September 2017 with his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.

Logan Richards ('17) has begun working towards his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular, and Structural Biology at UCLA.

Megha Sanjiv ('17) is working in Oceanside as an instructor at a center for developmentally disabled adults while she decides which Doctor of Physical Therapy program she will attend next year.

Johanna Wilson ('98) earned her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2001 and has served as General Counsel for Century Business Solutions in Irvine for several years.

Katayoun Yazdi-Nejad ('17) has been accepted to the UCSD School of Medicine.

In Memoriam

The CHP is saddened to announce the passing of CHP student, Mira Sanghera, this October. Mira was a third year Pharmaceutical Sciences major whose role as a CHP peer mentor, honors housing resident, and General Chemistry peer tutor touched many people at UCI.

CHP sponsors student to present at a national conference

The CHP recently sponsored senior Pauline Nguyen (pictured right) to participate in a gathering of scholars, students, and community activists as part of the 40th annual National Women's Conference held in Houston, Texas. Pauline and her research team, under the mentorship of the UCI Chair of Asian American Studies, Professor Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, presented on the involvement of Asian American Pacific Islander women at the first National Women's Conference, held in 1977. For her part of the panel, Pauline profiled Gloria Kumagai, an activist and educator who has played an important role in integrating women of color perspectives into the St. Paul Minnesota public school curriculum in the 1970s. This conference was an excellent opportunity for Pauline to share her research and to meet and learn from her role models. Pauline's CHP honors thesis is about her grandmother, who was the first female judge in Vietnam. She is in the process of applying to law school.



Alumni Spotlight – Stella Liu



CHP alumna Stella Liu ('15)

Stella Liu (International Studies '15) likes to think outside of the box, which has defined her way of doing things since her time as a Campuswide Honors Program student. Her career trajectory started with seeds, gardening kits, and the start-up OneSeed, which she founded while at UCI. This idea sprouted from her interests in food security and empowering people to grow their own food. It was a sign of bigger things to come, as Stella's career has been defined by entrepreneurship, particularly working across disciplines and sectors.

After graduating from UCI, Stella went to work for IBM in their Watson Internet of Things Division, where she found that she could have an entrepreneurial experience within a large company. "My job is exciting—I get to work with cutting edge technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence." As an Associate Product Manager she helps push through ideas like an entrepreneur, and feels that her startup experience has stood her in good stead. Taking a leave from work in 2016 she revisited her interest in food security as a Fulbright Research Fellow. Here again, ideas and disciplines came together in research and policy papers on the feasibility of scaling urban agriculture, and how technology can help improve agricultural output in Asia. One of her policy papers, on the need for a second Green Revolution, was featured in *New Straits Times*, one of the largest newspapers in Malaysia.

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2017/07/254923/green-revolution-20-aims-boost-rural-net-connectivity>

Asked how she is able to engage so broadly, Stella answers that a great deal of her ability to think and work in different areas was learned through the coursework she took in the CHP: "I think CHP's wide curriculum exposed me to many topics that helped expand the way I conceptually think about new ideas or ambiguous situations. Many of the challenges today require cross-disciplinary and cross-sector collaboration to solve. So taking classes that span from Philosophy to Physics helped stretch the way I think and made me more open minded. The classes have a rigor to them that was useful in doing well during my Fulbright experience and when I was writing my papers."

As for advice she would give to current CHP students who want to be engaged and make a difference in the world, Stella recommends the website <https://80000hours.org/> which helps young people make career choices that help solve the world's most pressing problems.

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