



**Sam Houston**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

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# The Dialogue

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1  
FALL 2015

## TRADITION CONTINUES BY VISITING UNIVERSITY CAMP

The Honors College continued the tradition of hosting the inaugural annual Honors Welcome Retreat for new Honors students at the Bearkat Camp in Riverside for the second time. Over 100 faculty, student ambassadors, and new members of the Honors College spent the weekend at SHSU's University Camp to get better acquainted with one another and with the Honors College faculty and staff. The retreat includes various ice-breaker games as well as line-dancing, zip-lining, kayaking, and the camp's low ropes course. Information sessions held at the retreat are intended to help new students better understand Honors requirements as well as learn about the opportunities available to them as Honors student.

Honors Ambassadors serve as camp counselors and spend a lot of time planning out the activities for students. "We spent a lot of time ensuring that the planned activities were going to be fun for everyone. It was really important to us to host games that encouraged comradery among the students, especially because no one really knew one another initially," said Shealynn Vogan, President of the Honors College Ambassadors. "It is extremely satisfying to watch the transition new Honors students go through in the short two days we are at University Camp. We are given the opportunity to help them gain a sense of community and friendship, which is ultimately the main goal of the retreat." The third annual Welcome Retreat will be held this September.



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HONORS COLLEGE?**

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## **SAVE THE DATE! FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

**APRIL 23, 2016**

The Ninth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium will take place on April 23, 2016, in the CHSS building and the LSC. This professional, interdisciplinary conference, hosted by the Honors College, is open to all undergraduates and offers a unique opportunity to present completed or ongoing research to an audience made up of peers, faculty, and family. The Undergraduate Research Symposium offers scholarship opportunities to presenters. The symposium is a major highlight of the University's initiative to foster student excellence in research. Students present their work in either oral-media sessions or in a research poster session, and each student receives constructive feedback from a faculty moderator. Paige Odegard, who won Honorable Mention for her research poster in 2015, was able to attend the prestigious Naylor writing studies workshop. At this workshop, Paige extended the research that she presented at the URS in order to investigate the ways that writing is taught across the curriculum. The URS remains an exciting venture for all students and offers myriad opportunities for career advancement.

## **SAVE THE DATE! FOR THE ANNUAL LET'S TALK! EVENT**

**MARCH 31, 2016**

LET'S TALK!<sup>TM</sup> is an annual event benefiting Sam Houston State University's Elliott T. Bowers Honors College. Renowned experts, covering a range of topics, come together for a rare evening filled with lively, entertaining and challenging dinner conversation. This is an exclusive opportunity to share ideas within a small group facilitated by a notable host whose passion and in-depth knowledge of the discussion topic will inspire and provide ideas long after the evening is concluded. The funds raised go to student scholarships, funding for conferences and study abroad trips, and research.

## **BOWERS MEDALLION CEREMONY**

**MAY 5, 2016**

Held at the end of every semester, this event recognizes Honors graduates and awards them with their Honors stoles and engraved Bowers Medallions.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MARK REYES

Honors student and Computing Science major Mark Reyes submitted a poem for the Fall 2015 *Enrique's Journey* Common Reader submission contest. Students were able to submit work in the following areas: essay, fine art, classroom design, and poetry research posters. Contest winners received a \$500 award and the opportunity to attend an awards luncheon where, Enrique's mother, Lourde, joined the students for further conversation about the book.

The common reader for the 2015-2016 academic year was *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. The common reader is integrated into classrooms through lecture, discussion, and assignments. The contest is for first-time incoming freshman at Sam Houston State University who read and write about the common reader. Scholarships are awarded to winning submissions. The scholarship that Reyes was awarded was sponsored by the Professional and Academic Center for Excellence.

The common reader program will continue into the spring semester. The Student Success Initiative will host the Immigration and Natural Law seminar. Immigration attorney, Audrey Biggar will speak at the seminar. *Enrique's Journey* and current immigration issues will be at the center of the discussion.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

### DR. BRITTANY HAYES



Dr. Brittany Hayes joined Sam Houston State University's faculty in fall 2014. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Rutgers University and earned her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, Masters of Philosophy in Criminal Justice, and Doctor

of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from John Jay College. She previously held teaching positions at John Jay College and Rutgers University. At SHSU Dr. Hayes teaches Criminology, Victimology, and Introduction to Methods of Research. In fall 2015 she taught an Honors section of Victimology. "Dr. Hayes is one of my favorite professors. She is passionate about her work and she engages the students so we really understand what we are trying to learn," said Kristyn Couvillion, one of her Honors students. Similar to most Honors courses, the class was a small group of students, each bringing their own unique perspective to the

class.

Dr. Hayes enjoyed teaching Honors students for that very reason. The students come from diverse backgrounds and were open to sharing their experiences with the class. Each student was attentive and dedicated to learning and understanding the concepts discussed. She found that many Honors students would often further their studies outside the classroom. Dr. Hayes, along with a few select Honors students, will conduct research this summer on intimate partner violence in the television series, *Teen Mom*.

## Love

A force exists,  
Invisible,  
Ethereal,  
Impenetrable.  
Strong as a mountain  
Yet fragile as glass.  
It has no mass;  
Formless, shapeless, weightless.  
A treasure to those who have it,  
And a source of envy for those who don't.  
It survives, through scraps:  
Of clothing,  
Of memories,  
Of scents and sights and sounds,  
Of family,  
Of hope.  
Immortal, but not invincible.  
It is beaten down.  
By pain, of having a hole gouged in the soul  
By distance, of what feels like a thousand thousand miles  
By betrayal, of abandonment that is not what it seems,  
But still it perseveres  
To have it is bliss,  
But too many ask the dreaded, burning question:  
Is it returned?  
The aching, gnawing, thrashing curiosity,  
Eating away the  
It drives many to pilgrimage, to journey, to struggle.  
No distance can stop them,  
No border can hold them,  
No thugs can break them,  
Nothing will keep them from asking,  
"Do you still love me?"  
Yet,  
The answer  
Is  
Was  
And always will be  
"Yes"



## Diamond Kats

Honors sophomore Criminal Justice major Janice Burke has been selected as president of the SHSU Diamond Kats. Diamond Kats is a student organization of 30 selected candidates who support and promote the baseball program. Candidates for Diamond Kats complete an application, interview, and training process. The baseball team and coaches participate in interviewing the young women to make sure their knowledge of baseball is top-notch. Diamond Kats are dedicated to supporting the baseball team and the spectators. Diamond Kats assist spectators by ordering and bringing food directly to the seat if you are a season ticket holder. Janice Burke said, "Supporting the baseball team is a wonderful experience! We get to see the game right from the dugout and be there to see all the action." In addition to supporting the baseball team, the Diamond Kats are also helping to kickstart the "First Base Club" at all the home games this season for season ticket holders.



## Innagural Moot Court Team

This Fall semester Sam Houston State founded its first Moot Court Team with 6 students. Half of the students are members of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, including Kristyn Couvillion, Chelsea King, and Kaitlyn Tyra. The Moot Court process replicates oral arguments made during the appeals process and helps prepare students for law school and their careers. Moot Court offers students networking and scholarship opportunities. Moot Court is a long and exhausting process, but hard work pays off. In its innagural year, a team from Sam Houston State made the "Sweet Sixteen" round in the regional tournament held at Texas Tech University. Kristyn Couvillion and James Perry made arguments against teams from Texas Christian University and Texas A&M University. It is rare for a first-year team to advance into final rounds but Sam Houston did just that. "Moot Court provided a way to better my public speaking skills and knowledge of the court system. I am excited to take this year's experience and further it in the coming years," said sophomore Kristyn Couvillion.



## Sam Houston Quidditch

Honors students at Sam Houston State participate in a wide variety of clubs, organizations, and sports. One of the newest extracurricular activities is quidditch. Quidditch is based on the sport from the popular *Harry Potter* series. Quidditch was created in 2005 and brought to Sam Houston State University in 2009. Honors student Travis Ward tells us about his experience playing quidditch. "I never expected to be a Quidditch player, but my involvement in this insane sport began just as most things in my life begin, as a joke. Curiosity got the better of me and I just had to go to a practice to see what it was all about, fully expecting to see a bunch of fellow nerds in capes running around and casting spells at each other.

But getting tackled and dunked on within my first ten seconds on the field made me re-evaluate what I thought about the sport.

Quidditch is a sport not to be taken lightly; it's full contact and co-ed with no pads. A handful of people get hurt every tournament, but that's something you have to accept before you set foot on the field. Perhaps that's what makes Quidditch players love it so much, the fact that everyone out there is fighting through injury and illness, giving all they've got for their team mates.

If you had told me a year ago that I'd be running into people twice my size with a broom between my legs I'd have called you crazy, but at this point it's second nature. "



## Study Abroad 2016: London and Paris

The unique study abroad experience of the Honors Journeys seminar continues! Last May students traveled to Zimbabwe; this May students will travel to London and Paris. This particular course, titled "The Essence of the City from the Medieval to the Modern--London and Paris," will provide an opportunity for SHSU Honors students to explore two of Europe's oldest and most vibrant cities by critically examining the cities' deep and varied histories through their individual cityscapes. Students will visit ancient, medieval, and modern sites, explore castles and other ruins, walk through museums, ride various forms of modern transportation, and partake of local cuisine. Students will be able to walk in the footsteps of famous figures, both historical and fictional: English and French monarchs, Sherlock Holmes

and John Watson, Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. To visit famous landmarks such as The Tower of London and the Eiffel Tower which have excited the imagination in myriad ways, to see those places where history was made, to tour museums where masterpieces of art are housed reflect what higher education seeks: to heighten and broaden knowledge and to create more well-rounded individuals. A group of eighteen Honors students will accompany Drs. Bell, Bilsing, and Lewis on this study abroad trip that is sure to be an enlightening journey.



## JAMP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL

CRESENCIO ADAME IV, SAMSON NDUKEW, ASHLEY PLATERO, HAMZA UDDIN



The Joint Admissions Medical Program offers financial support to students as well as a secured seat in one of the nine medical schools in Texas. It is almost too good to be true but JAMP is a special program created by the Texas Legislature to encourage highly qualified but economically disadvantaged students to pursue a medical education. All the students in the program at Sam Houston State University are honors students, Ashley Platero is also an Ambassador for the Honors College. Applying to and participating in the program is highly competitive and rigorous. In addition to the GPA and MCAT requirements, the program also places the students in internships in the summers of their sophomore and junior years which they are required to successfully complete. "But, if you want it bad enough, you will make the sacrifice," said Ndukwe.

JAMP is becoming more of a presence on our campus with 4 students being selected for this program, there are only about 100 students participating statewide. The College of Health Sciences received a \$20,000 grant from JAMP for the second consecutive year to help promote a summer camp that is offered for high school students to learn about JAMP and the medical field. Platero, who helps with the JAMP summer camp said, "JAMP helps you financially, it gives you experiences with internships and then, ultimately, it helps you get into medical school. It something you won't find anywhere else."

## WRITING WORKSHOP HELPS STUDENT EXPAND THESIS

Paige Odegard was selected as one of 30 students nationwide to join the prestigious Naylor writing studies workshop. She used this to expand her Honors Thesis which examines the way first year composition classes address writing and the way students express themselves through their class assignments. Odegard hopes to change the way Sam Houston State University incorporates writing into curriculum and ultimately change how students look at class writing. Odegard has shown interest in technical writing and research outside of academics, and she also works in SHSU's writing center on campus. The experiences have given her insight into how many students view their writing and work which played a part in the formation of her research. "If a student has difficulty transferring their thoughts into a discussion, we diagram their ideas and use a form of communication beyond the typical essay structure," Odegard said.

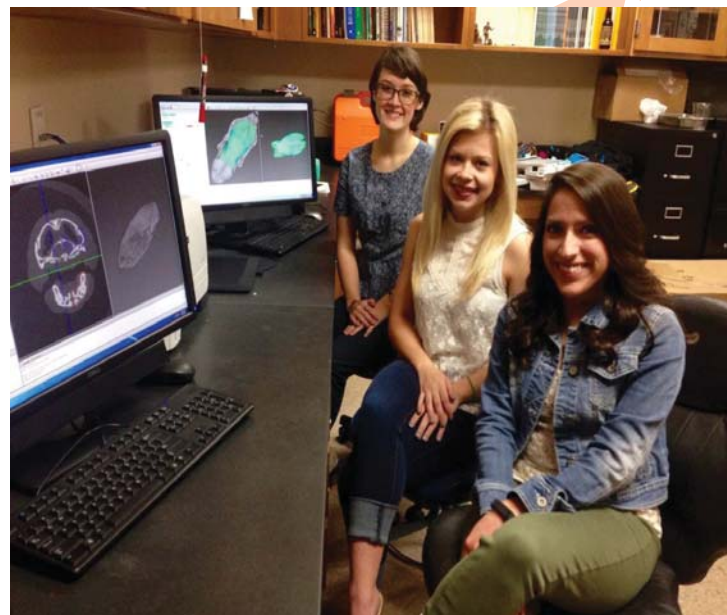
After taking technical writing classes with Dr. Carroll Nardone, Associate Professor of English, Odegard's eyes were opened to how writing is not just about research; it is also about the design of how you write and communicate with your audience. "Over the years I have come to see Paige as a wonderfully engaged student," said Nardone. "What impresses me most is her ability to use theory to question very practical points at the intersection of traditional English studies and rhetoric, and I think that is something she should share with the academic community."



## HONORS STUDENTS IN THE LAB

Honors students Sarah Bivens, Lauren Rudie, and Sarai Mesa are participating in a research lab with Honors' very own Associate Dean, Dr. Patrick Lewis. Their work is centered around the segmentation of the cranial anatomy of various species within the genus *Zygaspis*, round-headed lizards from many regions in Africa. They work with CT scans and software that allows them to reconstruct morphological features of the cranial bones, particularly the jaws of the species within the *Zygaspis* genus. Bivens, Rudie, and Mesa have all expressed how grateful they are for the opportunity to do research and to receive recognition for their accomplishments. While conducting this study, they found three wormian bones located in the frontoparietal suture of *Zygaspis kafuensis*. This is the first record of these rare cranial elements in lizards. The students are working with Dr. Lewis to publish a paper with their findings, a major accomplishment for undergraduate students. "Working in the lab has been a big part of each of our lives and we are very grateful to be given the opportunity to conduct such novel research and work in such a wonderful lab," said Rudie. Dr. Lewis is incredibly proud of his students' accomplishments. They have assisted him in writing

an academic article submitted over half a dozen grant proposals, presented their research at conferences. Dr. Lewis thinks of Bivens, Rudie, and Mesa as leaders in the lab, often teaching and assisting graduate students even though they are still in their undergraduate careers.



## ALUMNI NOTES:

JOHN DEVEAU earned his MBA in Finance and Accounting from Rice University. Currently, he is the Chief Financial Officer at Forge USA in Houston, Texas. He and his wife are owners of Sara's Inn on the Boulevard, a pre-1900 Victorian B&B in the Heights neighborhood of Houston, TX.

MIRANDA LANDSMAN is currently a reporter for FIOS1 TV News in New York City. Previously, she was an anchor and reporter for an NBC affiliate in Corpus Christi.

DAVID COURTADE earned his Master's degree in Professional Accounting at The University of Texas at Austin and is a Senior Associate at PWC Consulting in Los Angeles, California.

VARION WALTON was recently promoted to Business Manager for Healthcare Management Systems, Inc. (HMS), a Nashville-based healthcare company that develops, sells, and supports integrated clinical and financial hospital information systems and services. Previously, Walton interned with Nexion Health and completed the Nursing Facility Administrator in Training program.

THOMAS OLIVERSON, MD received his Doctor of Medicine (MD) at Baylor College of Medicine. Currently he is President and CEO of EDOB Holdings Company and the Republican State Representative HD 130.

SAVANNAH WOODWORTH is pursuing her Master of Arts (M.A.) in English Language and Literature at Sam Houston State University where she serves as a graduate Assistant with the English Department. Previously Savannah worked with *The Houstonian* newspaper as a staff reporter and participated in the SHSU Quidditch Club.

AUSTIN PEARCE is pursuing a Master's degree in Secondary Education at Black Hills State University. Currently he teaches Biology and Chemistry to 7-12th grade students and serves in the National Guard.





## FALL 2015 GRADUATES

### College of Business Administration

Elizabeth Lyssy

Christen Smith

### College of Criminal Justice

Charles Allen

Ashley Kelley

Chelsea King

Megan Lamberth

### College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication

Emily Acker

Cristina Barrera

Emily Eisterhold

Megan Bryzmialkiewicz

### College of Health Sciences

Anna Groce

Charissa Gray

Jessie Rachal

Magan Ross

### College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Sophia Garcia

Ann Reus

### College of Sciences

Lindsay Hixon

Jessica Martinez

Sarah Renfro\*

Rutger Yager

Amsal Zulfiqar

Arsalan Zulfiqar

\*Denotes Highest Honors

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### GRADUATE UPDATES:

**Charles Allen:** is pursuing a degree in Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary, he will also be an officer for the Houston Police Department

**Sophia Garcia:** is pursuing a degree in International Studies at Texas State University

**Lindsay Hixon:** Will be employed with Klein ISD, working as a math teacher

**Ashley Kelley:** Will be employed with the Houston Police Department as a patrol officer.

**Elizabeth Lyssy:** is pursuing a Master's degree in Accounting from Sam Houston State University

**Jessica Martinez:** is pursuing a Master's degree in International Affairs at the Texas A&M Bush School of Government

**Anne Reus:** Pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Houston

**Christen Smith:** Pursuing a Master's in Accounting at Sam Houston State University





# HONORS COLLEGE SPRING 2016 EVENTS

JANUARY 13	WEDNESDAY	8:00 AM	Wake Up with Honors
JANUARY 18	MONDAY	HOLIDAY	Campus Closed
FEBRUARY 18	MONDAY	1:00 PM	Reception for Outstanding Students
FEBRUARY 24	WEDNESDAY	1:00 PM	Ambassador Meet and Greet at Austin Hall
MARCH 2	WEDNESDAY	12:00 PM	Lunch with Honors Deans
MARCH 7-11	MONDAY		Spring Break
MARCH 15	TUESDAY	5:00 PM	URS Call for Papers Deadline
MARCH 15	TUESDAY	8:30 AM	Honors Ambassador Application Deadline
MARCH 25	FRIDAY		Good Friday Holiday
MARCH 31	THURSDAY	8:00 AM	Let's Talk Dinner
	FRIDAY-SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Honors College Open House, Saturday at Sam
APRIL 4	MONDAY	4:00 PM	Honors Ambassador Meeting
APRIL 15	FRIDAY	6:30 PM	High School Honors Dinner
TBA	TUESDAY	6:00 PM	Honors Dinner with President
APRIL 23	SATURDAY	8:00 AM	Undergraduate Research Symposium
APRIL 29	FRIDAY	3:00 PM	Last Class Day
MAY 2-5	MONDAY		Exam Week
MAY 5	THURSDAY	5:00 PM	Deadline for Contracts
MAY 5	THURSDAY	11:00 AM	Bowers Medallion Ceremony
MAY 6	FRIDAY	9:00 AM	Commencement
		2:00 PM	
MAY 7	SATURDAY	10:00 AM	Commencement
		2:00 PM	

## Save the Date!

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College  
 2016 Welcome Retreat  
 September 9-10  
 Online Registration Begins May 1, 2016  
 \$75 per student

## The Texas State University System Board of Regents 2013

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Brian McCall, Austin

## Honors Council

Kimberly Bell	Dean, Honors College
Frank Fair	Philosophy
William Hyman	Health & Kinesiology
Brian Loft	Mathematics
Joyce McCauley	Education
Kenneth McIntyre	Political Science
Holly Miller	Criminal Justice
Valerie Mueshsam	Business
Janet Mullings	Criminal Justice
Victoria Lantz	Theatre
Jeff Wozniak	Biology
Pamela Zelbst	Management
Rick Bello	Communication Studies
Michelle Martinez	Newton Gresham Library
Hannah Gerber	Education

## Honors Ambassadors

Lorenzo Anderson	Joshua McGinty
Merary Bautista Ordonez	Denisa Miciuc
Kristyn Couvillion	Margaret Mitschke
Alondra Garza	Everrett Moore
Haven Gomez	Grace Ngo
Addie Goodson	John Pinard IV
Amie Kas	Ashley Platero
Sarah Kavanagh	David Porter
Bailey-Anne Kaytar	Shealynn Vogan
Megan Lamberth	Rebecca Wood
Sarah Landsman	Lixin Zhang
Jessica Martinez	

## HSAC Officers

David Porter	President
Rachel Hunnicut	Vice President

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## Honors Faculty and Staff

Kimberly Bell, Ph.D.  
Maria Holmes, Ed.D.  
Patrick Lewis, Ph.D.  
Tracy Bilsing, Ph.D.  
Connie Rodriguez  
Kristyn Couvillion  
Gaby Rangel  
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