

The Dialogue

The Sam Houston State Honors College Newsletter
VOLUME 2, Issue 1 Fall 2010



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Honors Luau

An annual gathering to make new friends and visit with those you already know! Here are a few pictures from the event!



Honors Website

In an effort to update the SHSU website, the Honors College has adopted the same layout as the main Sam Site.

Some new features of this site include:

- Easy navigation
- Photo galleries
- Easy access to important forms and information
- Up-to-date calendars
- The latest news
- Links to essential web sites
- Easy to use contact form

To explore these features and more visit us at:

www.shsu.edu/honors



Honors Lounge Remodel

In an effort to provide a more comfortable environment for our Honors students, we have completely updated our Honors Lounge. This room was once the Honors Office, but with more space came the opportunity to provide the students a place to relax, study, and enjoy the company of others.

We added new furniture, including three couches, three lounge chairs, a conference table, and even a table for chess. We also have a refrigerator for students to keep food items easily accessible, a microwave, and coffee bar.

Also available for student use is a state-of-the-art Blu Ray player and Wii gaming system. We also have a plethora of fun board games for groups to play together.

So far we have had a great increase in use. The star is obviously the coffee maker. It is great to walk into this room and hear conversations that range from politics to Japanese robots. We hope that students continue to enjoy the space!

Alumni Notes

2004 Grad **Marcus Sauer** is a DPS Trooper in the Woodlands.

2005 Grad **Alicia Deal** is pursuing her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice here at SHSU.

2006 Grad **David Sweeten** is now at Purdue studying later Medieval literature for his Master's.

2007 Grad **Andrew Husband** received his Master's in English from SHSU and is in the Ph.D. program at Texas Tech.

2008 Grad **Eryn Pendlly** received her degree in Biology and is now a Physical Therapist at the Houston Medical Center.

2009 Grad **Emily Miller** graduated with Highest Honors in the Criminal Justice program and is currently a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army.

2010 Grad **Jason Lamb** is pursuing his Master's in Accounting here at SHSU.

2010 Grad **Brandon Reese** gained a Bachelors degree in Political Science and is now in Law School at Texas Tech.



Difficult Dialogues Seminar

By Patrick Lewis, Ph.D. Department of Biological Sciences

The Difficult Dialogues seminar is a new team-taught seminar which changes its topic and faculty each semester. The primary objective of the course is to take on complex, often divisive, topics and look at these topics from a variety of perspectives. In the first two years we have explored science and religion, environmentalism and global warming, health and health care, and in the Spring of 2011, racism in modern America. These are all topics where many people are prone to seek only confirmatory evidence and opinions that support their own views. While this provides a sense of cognitive comfort, it fails to address what is sometimes an alarming ignorance about alternative opinions, views, and ways of understanding the world and our place in it. Interestingly, that ignorance often is accompanied by an attitude that it is not important or interesting to explore alternative ideas. The premise of this seminar series, therefore, is that on issues where there are strongly held opinions the only way to move forward is by understanding the other side.

The course selects faculty from diverse disciplines with expertise on the topics. A discussion format is used, with readings and videos serving to start conversation and debate. Students are evaluated largely on participation, short writing assignments, and journal entries. The students are also separated into several groups. Each group is then given a video camera and asked to create a short documentary on a topic broadly related to the semester's focus. The goal of the course is not necessarily that students leave with a predetermined set of information or a different opinion on the topic. Rather, we strive to show that many issues, particularly those that are emotionally charged, are complex and that to move forward we must understand alternative viewpoints.



Students are encouraged to wait until their sophomore year to take their first seminar. The seminar content is often challenging and integrates in-depth papers and oral presentations in an effort to provide students with research experience.

Other Seminars are:

HON 131—Science

HON 231—Decision Making

HON 275—Fine Arts

HON 331—Business

HON 332—Humanities

HON 475—Difficult Dialogues

Seminars are based on a need to take basis. Any students that need a seminar to graduate the next semester need to make sure to get enrolled in one of these classes.



Great Plains Honors Council Conference

By: Amanda Howard

Last semester, I had the honor of traveling to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to present a paper. I travelled with Dr. Gene Young, Curtis Balusek, Brittany Disiere, and Brittany Winner. The five of us attended multiple sessions while at the conference, dealing with a range of subjects. I listened to presentations on topics ranging from Harry Potter to cloning. The diversity of topics and talents at the conference made it a unique learning experience. My presentation was about Homer's epic the *Odyssey*; I dealt mostly with the importance of women in that text. It was my first time presenting at any conference and I highly enjoyed the experience; in fact I would love to be able to present at another conference again in the near future.



Dr. Young and Ambassadors

In association with the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the Great Plains organization promotes the flow of information, ideas, fellowship and professional encouragement throughout its member programs. The spring regional conference always emphasizes student presentations and the region-as-text.

To find out more visit greatplainshonors.com

Honors Student Now Published Author

Austin Pearce Collaborates to Publish In Journal

In the peer-reviewed journal Chemical Biology and Drug Design, Austin published an article, along with two other SHSU students and two faculty in Biology, Drs. Gaillard and Primm. His research project, which is also serving as his senior thesis project, involves examining a group of chemical compounds called acetophenones for their ability to inhibit the organ of motility, called the flagella. A number of genetic diseases in humans involve defects in the flagella. This is one small step towards developing drugs to treat those diseases. Austin also gave an oral presentation on this project at the 2010 Spring Meeting of the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, held April 8-10 at the T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels. He earned the award for the best undergraduate talk at the meeting, with a prize of \$50 and a free microbiology textbook. Austin is an outstanding student and great representative of what one would expect for an Honors student.

If you would like to read his article, here is the full citation:

Evans, Shakila K., Pearce, Austin A., Ibezim, Prudence K., Primm, T. P., and Gaillard, Anne R. "Select acetophenones modulate flagellar motility in *Chlamydomonas*" (2010) *Chemical Biology and Drug Design*. 75 (3), 333-337.



Elliott T. Bowers Honors College
Student Ambassadors



Undergraduate
Research Symposium

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Mark your Calendars for the Fourth Annual
Undergraduate Research Symposium

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Sponsored by the
Honors College Student Ambassadors

“It’s a good
experience that
can go on your
résumé. You
learn how to
present and how
to be a leader. I
really enjoy
being part of the
event.”

~Brittany Disiere
Co-Chair

The Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), begun by Honors Student Ambassadors in 2008, provides a forum for all undergraduate students to present their research in a conference setting so that they can gain professional experience in a congenial and positive environment. It also affords students the rare opportunity to receive constructive feedback from faculty members who evaluate students’ presentations. Unlike most symposia, registration is free, and complementary meals are provided.

The URS is committed to fostering collegiality and promoting the exchange of ideas among all students and professors, but we especially encourage all honors students to present their work, either in poster or oral sessions, individually or in groups, in any area of research. Honors students are also invited to actively participate in other ways as well—as presiders over sessions, audience members, organizers, and volunteers (and working for the URS can also fulfill community service hours!).

Presentations may be in the following formats:

- Individual papers or projects (limit: 20 minutes each)
- Panels of undergraduate papers or projects (limit: 3-4 presenters)
- Posters

Registration is free, but students who wish to present must register and submit a 100-150 word abstract by Friday, March 4, 2011; all those planning to attend must register by Friday, April 1, 2011. All participants and attendees who register and present their student or faculty ID cards will be given a complimentary breakfast and lunch and will receive a special gift.

For more information and to register, you may visit :
shsu.edu/~honors/symposium/index.html or e-mail Dr. Kimberly Bell
(kbell@shsu.edu).



From and For the Students!

Student Involvement

By: Keri Kershaw, senior Biology/Psychology

What is your major? There are LOTS of organizations for you to join. Almost every major has a special organization in its respective department. There are also those organizations that are activity-oriented, such as leadership, community service, academic, social, etc... Here is a link to a list of all the organizations on campus: http://www.shsu.edu/~slo_sad/v2/studentorgs/orgs-cat.html

It's possible to get involved in more than one organization. Currently, I'm actively involved in about 5. Regardless of your major, the two that I recommend that you give a try are the National Society of Leadership and Success and the Elliott T. Bowers Honor College. The Bowers Honor College is the campus' Honors Program. It has really heightened my educational experience. There are certain classes held specifically for honors students. These are great, because you are in class with people who are on your level with a common educational goal.

You also have the opportunity of taking your normal classes and signing a contract with your professor where you both decide what extra work/project you can do to receive honors credit for the class. I have LOVED these contracted courses. Also, we offer lots of community service opportunities and social events. The social events are great for getting to know the fellow honors students and networking. Needless to say, the Honors College provides you with a more challenging, yet extremely rewarding college experience.

The National Society of Leadership and Success is absolutely great for building leadership skills. You're required to attend certain events in order to be a full member, and these events are actually beneficial! They are structured not only to build leadership, but to keep you motivated towards achieving all of your goals-educational and personal. You get to see motivational speeches from successful people and hear their stories. It definitely gave me extra motivation to continue on my path to personal success. The requirement for that organization is to have a GPA of at least 3.0. I was the president last year and am currently still filling officer spots. If you're interested I can give you more information. Here is the national website: societyleadership.org



Involvement Overload? by: Laura DuBose, Student Editor

Throughout high school many of us participated in multiple organizations from Decathlon to FFA to Speech and Debate. Now that we've hit college, the pressure and desire to stay involved is even worse. We must think about the experience that we can gain as well as the friends we can make. So how much involvement is too much? Is it worth the sacrifice to a personal life? These are definitely questions that have either already been asked or will come in the future. With college comes a plethora of new opportunities. There is an organization for all interests, and if there isn't one yet, there is probably one being formed. So what do you do when there are five clubs you want to join, community service you're interested in, and you have a full course load? From personal experience, I would say the best advice is not to spread yourself too thin. Make sure you make time for everything, including yourself. What's the point of making friends if you can't spend any time with them? Also, if the going gets too tough, sort out your priorities. Of course you would love to help build a house, volunteer to walk dogs, work two jobs, serve as secretary for your favorite organization, attend meetings, and do homework; but would that be the best choice for you? Remember that stress has a negative impact on immune systems, and that 75 to 90 percent of doctors visits are caused by stress. Overall, have fun with what you want to do. If ever you feel that there is too much going on, think about what's more important: your involvement, or your well being.



Honors Soccer

Are you a Soccer Fan?

If you answered yes, then prepare yourself for the fall Intramural Sports Season. Our Honors Team, made up of men and women from the Honors College, will take on other organizations in an effort to have fun with sports.



Intramural Sports are sponsored by Recreational Sports. There are many different team and individual sports to participate in. These range from live sports like football and wallyball, to video games on XBOX and Wii.

Our soccer team has already reached the limit for participants, but they wouldn't mind some fans to cheer them on! Keep an eye out for game dates!

And if you are interested in Intramural Sports for the fall or the spring, check out their website: http://www.shsu.edu/~rca_www/intramural_sports/

Honors Council

The Honors College is governed by the Honors Council, which sets policy, plans activities, secures support, and makes judgments on individual matters as necessity dictates. The Honors Council consists of 12 faculty members and the Honors Director. These faculty members, along with two student representatives, make up the committees that determine new entries into the Honors College. These are the current members and their respective departments:

- Janet Mullings, Criminal Justice
- Alice Fisher, Kinesiology
- Patrick Lewis, Biological Sciences
- Kim Bell, English
- Valerie Muehsam, Economics
- Jacqueline Jensen, Mathematics
- William Lutterschmidt, Biological Sciences
- Victoria Titterington, Criminal Justice
- Jo Ann Duffy, Management
- Sheryl Murphy-Manley, Music
- Frank Fair, Philosophy
- Pamela Zelbst, Management





Brittany Disiere



Dr. Ken Hendrickson

Student Spotlight

Brittany is a Senior Forensic Chemistry major and a Criminal Justice, Biology double minor. Brittany has been a member of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College since her freshman year. Brittany has also been an Elliott T. Bowers Honors College Ambassador since Spring 2009. For the past two years, she has been the Co-chair of the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium sponsored by the Honors College Ambassadors. She is also an Undergraduate Student Assistant in the Honors College office so come by and say hello!

Brittany is involved in many honor societies here on campus: the Golden Key National Honor Society, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Brittany plans to graduate in May 2011 with honors. After graduation Brittany plans to enter into the Forensic Science Graduate program here at Sam Houston State and then plans to pursue a career as a Forensic Scientist and work in the criminal justice area of forensics.

Professor Highlight

Dr. Hendrickson received his Ph.D. in 1993 from the University of Iowa. His studies focused mainly on British History. Here at Sam Houston, he teaches History in Religion and Science in Society among others.

For the Honors College he is an integral part of the Humanities Seminar. He teaches about Pop and Rock music in America, including the influence of Drug Culture on our society. He says that teaching is “a rush.” His favorite part is seeing the reaction that students have when ideas that don’t seem related are connected.

Dr. Hendrickson has been the recipient of the University’s Excellence in Teaching Award. This May he was awarded University Mentor of the Year.

As a teacher in the Honors College since the early 1990s, he has really seen the program grow. He believes that the diversity of the students has strengthened the program greatly. His favorite part of our new system is the Honors Seminars. They allow for the class to have “a life of its own.”

To all students, he suggests that you make the most of the opportunities you have in College. “This is the last chance to undo the mold that K-12 produced.” “Mix it up!”

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”

I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

~Albert Einstein

Want to be featured in the next Dialogue?

Recommend yourself, a friend or a professor to the Honors College to be featured in the next newsletter. Please email or stop by with a name and a reason why that person should be in our featured section.





The Dialogue?

The title of “*The Dialogue*” was inspired by the efforts of the Honors College to enhance communication. Many of our efforts include interaction between people including the Let’s Talk Series and Difficult Dialogues Seminar.

The Dialogue fits the Honors College standards for this newsletter. We want to provide the best news and information to this group of distinguished people at Sam Houston.

Upcoming Events

November 17 is the second Grassroots speaker, Lt. Col. Yebra at 5:00 pm.

November 19 is the High School Honors Recognition Dinner in the LSC at 6:30 pm

November 20 is Saturdays @ SAM

This is a good community service opportunity!

December 17 is the Deadline for Course Contract Grades and Community Service Hours

December 17 Bowers Medallion Graduation Luncheon at 11:30 am, in Austin Hall

December 18 is the University’s Commencement

Please make sure to check your email, the website, and blackboard for all the information on Honors events.

Let us hear from YOU!

If you have any thing you would like to share with the rest of the Honors College, let us know!

We are looking for pictures and articles from every one. Are you going abroad? Have you found an internship? Share your experiences!

honors@shsu.edu
936-294-1477



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Sam Houston State Honors College

Box 2479
 Huntsville, TX 77341

936-294-1477 ph
 936-294-1090 fax
honors@shsu.edu



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