



The Dialogue

SPRING 2012

In this Issue:

[Let's Talk!](#)

[URS](#)

[President's Dinner](#)

[Seen From Afar](#)

[Dr. Young in the News](#)

[EXPLORE](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Spring and Summer Grads](#)

[From and For the Students](#)

- Student Presenters -
- SHSU Debate Team -
- Ambassador Achievements -
- Student & Faculty Spotlight

Let's Talk!

This year's Let's Talk! was a great success! Held on Thursday, March 22nd, the event more than doubled the amount of funds raised for the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College. Guests once again enjoyed participating in discussions led by knowledgeable and inspiring leaders covering a wide range of engaging topics.



Journeys with Let's Talk! Speakers was introduced this year to give students the opportunity to meet and hear from some of the speakers. We had four speakers this year and a great turn out. We also gave away a ticket to Let's Talk!

Let us hear from YOU!

If you have anything you would like to share with the Honors College, let us know!

Share your experiences!

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UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



The Fifth Annual SHSU Undergraduate Research Symposium was the best yet! This April 21, we welcomed a total of 110 presenters with around 115 audience members. Topics were greatly varied in discipline, and the presentations were uniformly excellent. Some of the areas of study presented on were: Film, Biology, Business, Criminal Justice, Literature, Music, Psychology, Humanities, Agriculture, Nutrition, Chemistry, Poetry, History, Philosophy, and more. The great variety of poster presentations added to the shared knowledge. We'd like to send a special thanks to our sponsors, the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, College of Education, College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Campus Life Development Fund. We also wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Hiranya Nath for his support of the Honors College through his generous Assam Scholarship for Honors Research Award. Thank you to everyone who participated!

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

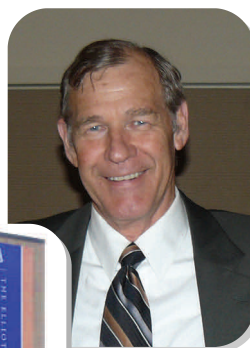
Dr. Dana Gibson, President of Sam Houston State University, hosted a special dinner for Honors College students. This year's dinner took place at the newly renovated Walker Education Center on Tuesday, March 6th.

This year's dinner was extremely special because a majority of the Academic Deans attended and shared their expertise with the honors students. This is an experience that many other students never have. There were also a few other faculty members and administrators. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time!



Seen From Afar

The Honors College can now be recognized from afar. Our recently-installed banner on the side of AB-4 is visible from both Avenue J and 20th Street. The banner both locates us for prospective students and encourages more honors applications. It is also a source of pride in the College and a reminder of our prominent place on the SHSU campus.



Dr. Young in the News

Honors Director Dr. Gene Young was featured on the front page of the February 3rd *Houston Chronicle* in an article titled, "Colleges Going Deep in the Heart of Texas Studies." This feature highlighted a course Dr. Young teaches called "Texas Crossroads." The article itself featured many prominent schools and professors educating students on the "crossroads" between Texas history, literature, and culture. It called special attention to the musical and cultural events which are a part of Dr. Young's course—anyone interested in learning more about our beautiful Texas?

Explore

Sam Houston State University has sought opportunities for our students to explore internships, research, and creative endeavors. EXPLORE stands for: Examine Postsecondary Learning Opportunities and Research in Education. This program emphasizes undergraduate research. Undergraduate research gives students the opportunity to:

- Gain real-world experience
- Build their resume - for grad school or career
- Work closely with faculty researchers
- Find real answers to real questions
- Improve skills and abilities for future success
- Have opportunities to present and publish results

There are many myths about research and creative internships. Here are the facts about some common questions. Internships are not only for juniors and seniors. All undergraduate students can do research and creative internships. Students can research any topic that interests them. Many faculty members will develop topics for students to research. Research and internships provide hands-on experience where students can "test-drive" a career.

To get started, visit www.shsu.edu/explore and explore the opportunities available in the United States and abroad. Discover which opportunities you're interested in pursuing. Determine the stipends and costs, and the deadlines for those submitting applications by going to the specific research opportunities websites. For assistance on the application process, contact Christi Walters in the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs at cl027@shsu.edu or 936-294-1708. For assistance on resume and cover letters, contact Career Services at careerservices@shsu.edu or 936-294-1713.

Alumni Notes

2005 Grad Jason Horn, is the Assistant District Attorney at Montgomery County District Attorney's office and lives in Conroe, TX. He is from Livingston, TX originally and studied law at Baylor.

2006 Grad Mark Thibodeaux, Graphic Design major, is the Online Creative Director for Worldwide Business Research based in Brooklyn, New York. In 2008, he designed and won the American Design Awards Summer Semi-Annual Contest for his cover design of his father's novel *Catherine's Cadeu*.

2007 Grad Katie Fletcher is now Program Coordinator of Project CONNECT TRIO Student support Services at SHSU

2008 Grad Emma Quintero, Political Science Major, from San Antonio and former Honors College Ambassador, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin Law School this May.

2009 Grad Jennifer Sawhill is now a Graduate Assistant at Penn State University studying Art History.



Dominic Pollone received the Life Member Award from the SHSU Alumni Association.

Spring and Summer Graduates

- **Amanda Anders** - Banking and Financial Institutions & Finance
- **Curtis Balusek** - Physics and Math
- **Kristin Boykin** - Interdisciplinary Studies
- **Jessica Burk** - Sociology and Criminal Justice, "Highest Honors"
- **Laura Condon** - Psychology
- **Keely Disman** - History and English, "Highest Honors"
- **Laura DuBose** - Musical Theatre
- **Sara Dupree** - Criminal Justice
- **Mary Ferguson** - Biology, "Highest Honors"
- **Morgan Foulkes** - International Business, "Highest Honors"
- **Nina Garcia** - Musical Theatre
- **Mary Gibson** - Psychology
- **Christina Grey** - Mathematics
- **Jessica Hernandez** - Music Therapy
- **John Hollingsworth III** - Criminal Justice
- **Amanda Howard** - English, "Highest Honors"
- **Christopher John** - Forensic Chemistry
- **Tracy-Chui Lau** - Political Science and Mass Communications, "Highest Honors"
- **Jerome Lewis** - Psychology
- **Desire' Lopez** - Chemistry
- **Brianne Marvin** - Computer Science
- **Lauren Mondin** - Mathematics, "Highest Honors"
- **Xavier Moreno-Piedra** - English
- **Mackenzie Morrison** - General Business Administration
- **Austin Muñoz** - History, "Highest Honors"
- **Anthony Noto** - Criminal Justice
- **Norma Ogbonna** - Biology, "Highest Honors"
- **Austin Pearce** - Biology, "Highest Honors"
- **Sonya Ramzanali** - Biology
- **John Rhine** - English and History, "Highest Honors"
- **Kodi Saylor** - English, "Highest Honors"
- **Joy Smith** - Food Science & Nutrition
- **Julie Taylor** - Biology
- **Courtney Weber** - Mathematics
- **Donnie Wiggins III** - Criminal Justice
- **Amanda Williams** - Psychology
- **Brittany Winner** - Forensic Chemistry, "Highest Honors"
- **Jennifer Yopez** - English and Spanish, "Highest Honors"

*The Honors College would like to send a big **CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our **Spring and Summer Graduates!!***

Graduating Honors Student Ambassadors

Back L-R: Curtis Balusek, Lauren Mondin, Christopher John, Norma Ogbonna, Julie Taylor, Austin Pearce.
Front L-R: Laura DuBose, Amanda Howard, Mary Ferguson, Brittany Winner



From and For the Students

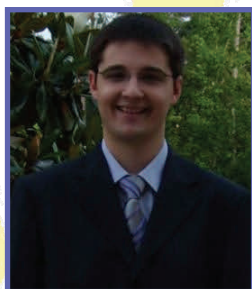
Western Social Sciences Association Meeting

The Western Social Science Association (WSSA) is committed to multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The WSSA advances scholarship, teaching, service and professional exchange across the social science disciplines. (from the WSSA website, wssa.asu.edu)

Two Honors College students, Plamen Novakov and Austin Muñoz attended the WSSA Annual meeting in Houston this April. Both of these students presented research that stemmed from an Honors Contract and Honors Thesis respectively.

Novakov, junior History major, presented his extensive research of Nazi architecture and how along with works of counterfactual history by men like Albert Speer they gave Nazi Germany an air of legitimacy. The web of lies maintained by these monuments and books filled with propaganda and historical inaccuracies brainwashed an entire generation into believing the horrors of the Third Reich to be the glorious successors of Ancient Rome.

Muñoz, senior History major, presented research from his Honors Thesis. The title of his thesis is "Changing War: The Role of Napoleon and the French Revolution in the Emergence of Total War." His Thesis advisor is Dr. Andrew Orr. Dr. Orr submitted both of these students for the meeting, and he advised both in their research.



Plamen Novakov

Sam Houston Debate Team

Congratulations to the SHSU Debate Team, coached by Adam Key, for their fantastic achievements this semester! As a whole they received the Third Place Founders Cup and the First Place Team Program.

Some of our own Honors College students belong to the debate team: Stephen Green, Devon Hernandez, Steven Perry, Zachary Raybourn, Stephen Sears, and Cody Stevens. Keep working hard guys!

This team is rising to the top and who knows where it will stop! If any other Honors students are wanting to get involved with this team, go for it! The Honors College loves to see its students getting involved in groups just like these and bringing their talent and accomplishments with them!

Ambassador Achievements

Curtis Balusek is graduating with Honors, earning a B.S. in both Physics and Mathematics. He was an active member of the LURE program in the math department and received a *Sammy* award from the college of Sciences for excellence in service. He is going on to pursue a Ph.D. in Physics at Georgia Tech.

Laura DuBose is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors, earning a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. She interned with Stages Repertory Theatre and is participating in the Disney College Program Internship in Florida.

Mary Ferguson is graduating with Highest Honors, earning a B.S. in Biology with a minor in statistics. She is headed to Oklahoma State University to pursue a M.S. in Entomology and Plant Pathology.

Morgan Foulkes is graduating with Highest Honors, earning a B.B.A. in Economics and a B.B.A. in International Business as well as a minor in Mathematics and Music. He presented his research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He is pursuing a M.S. of Finance at the University of Rochester's Simon Graduate School of Business, where he has been offered presidency of the ambassadors program.

Amanda Howard is graduating with Highest Honors and earning a B.A. in English and a minor in Spanish. As an undergraduate, she was co-chair of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. After graduation, she is pursuing a M.A. in English here at Sam Houston State University and will also be working as a graduate assistantship.

Christopher John is graduating with Honors, earning a B.S. in Forensic Chemistry. He was a Chemistry teaching assistant and worked with Dr. Norman on Inorganic Chemistry research for two summers. He is going to Michigan State University to pursue a Ph. D in Chemistry with a graduate teaching assistantship.

Lauren Mondin is graduating with Highest Honors, earning a B.S. in Mathematics and a minor in Statistical Theory. She worked as a Math Lab assistant and did two years of research at SHSU, resulting in one published paper, one pending publication, and one currently under review. She has been accepted into the University of Iowa Ph. D program of Biostatistics.

Norma Ogbonna is graduating with Highest Honors, earning a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. This year, she won the resident advisor of the year award and won the Orville Wyss 2nd place award at the American Society of Microbiology regional conference. This year she won the SHSU Biological Sciences department award for outstanding research. She is pursuing a Medical Doctorate in the fall of 2012.

Austin Pearce is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors, earning a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He has one published article in a medical journal, alongside two publications through SHSU. He plans to pursue a M.D. in Anesthesiology.

Julie Taylor is graduating with Honors, earning a B.S in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She was a Bearkat Camp Counselor and is going to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston to pursue a Medical Doctorate.

Brittany Winner is graduating with Highest Honors, earning a B.S. in Forensic Chemistry and minoring in both Biology and Criminal Justice. She is attending Michigan State University to pursue a Ph. D. in both Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Student Spotlight

Taylor Crane is a senior graduating in Spring 2013 with a Sociology major and a double minor in English and French. She has been in the Honors College since 2010 and has been consistently involved in the cultural outings for the Honors College. Her favorite aspect of these outings is when local venues and entertainment are showcased, such as the Homestead and SHSU theater.

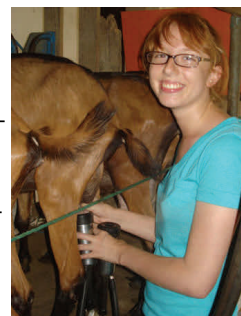
For the past two years, she has also been involved with the Undergraduate Research Symposium and has found it to be “an incredibly enriching experience.” She adds, “Having that hub of other academics and research can be so beneficial to future research.” (So, those of you con-

sidering the URS should really get involved! It could truly brighten your future.)

For this year’s symposium, she presented her French case study about her internship on a French farm in Summer 2011.

After graduation, she plans to enter a graduate studies program in sociology of agriculture. She also hopes to obtain a fellowship and PhD to one of the many schools up North. Her longtime goal: to become a professor in sociology.

Good luck with all your future plans, Taylor. We at the Honors College support you in all your ventures!



“Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.”
- Confucius

Professor Highlight

Dr. Hiranya Nath has been teaching in the Department of Economics and International Business for Sam Houston State University since 2002. Before coming to the U.S. in 1996, he received his Bachelor’s with Honors in Economics and a M.A. in Economics from the University of Delhi, India along with a Master of Philosophy degree in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. After coming to the U.S., he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Like a true Economics professor, Dr. Nath advises that developing critical thinking and problem solving skills is the top priority for students in college in anticipating that “the 21st century labor market will be extremely dynamic...”. He also recom-

mends to all the college students out there that nurturing and developing creative and innovative ideas will help you in the future, emphasizing that these are critical survival skills. To substantiate his beliefs, Dr. Nath has created an Assam Scholarship for Honors Research Award. He created this award as his “small token way of providing the students with the incentive to acquire skills for survival.”

Thank you Dr. Nath for all you have done in contribution to the Honors College and for the Honors students!



New HSAC Officers and Ambassadors

The 2012 Honors Ambassadors selection process this year yielded our largest number of highly qualified applicants. The Selection Committee spent many hours interviewing and reviewing the outstanding qualities of each candidate. After careful consideration, the following students were selected as our new Ambassadors for 2012-2013:

Shabia Ahmed, Maryse Bakouetila, Trey Cawley, Miranda Landsman, Stephan Little, Samantha McKinley, Colleen McKinney, Christian Morris, Maelani Negrito, Thilo Schumacher, Sebastiaan Roling, Brooke Selover, Aria Shirani, Lea Sonby, and Heather Weitena

Please help us in extending congratulations to our newest members of the Honors College Student Ambassadors!

The Honors College also elected its new Honors Student Advisory Council Officers. They are, President, Lea Sonby; Vice President, Samantha McKinley; Secretary, Michael Van Gorp; and Historian, Brooke Selover.

We look forward to a great 2012-2013!

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.



Honors College Calendar

August 27 First Ambassador and HSAC Meeting

4:00 pm, Honors College Lounge

August 29 Wake Up With Honors

8:00 am–10:00 am, Honors College Lounge

September TBA Honors Mandatory Meeting

September 8 Parents' Luncheon

11:00 am, LSC Ballroom

September 9 Luau on the Lake

6:00 pm, Elkin's Lake Olympic Pool

October 1 Ambassador Meeting and Monday Funday

5:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Honors College Lounge

October 4, 10, 11, 16 Open Advising Sessions

4:00 pm, Honors Lounge or Olson Auditorium

October 18 Homecoming Parade

October 20 Honors Alumni Homecoming Reunion and Tailgate

October 25 Fall Festival

6:00 pm, Gibbs Ranch

October 31 Spivey Haunted House

October TBA Cultural Outing

November 1 Career Majors Fair

9:00 am–3:00 pm, LSC Ballroom

November 2 PTK Reception

1:00 pm–3:00 pm, Honors Lounge

November 5 Ambassador Meeting and Monday Funday

5:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Honors College Lounge

November 17 High School Honors Dinner

6:30 pm–8:30 pm, LSC Ballroom

November 18 Saturdays @ Sam Open House

11:00 am–12:00 pm, Olson Auditorium

December 14 Bowers Medallion Luncheon

11:30 am–1:00 pm, LSC Ballroom

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 about the Honors College.

Let us hear from YOU!

If you have anything you would like to share with the Honors College, let us know!

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

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Pamela Zelbst, Management
Bill Hyman, Health and Kinesiology

Honors Ambassadors

Curtis Balusek	Jacob Luna
Brianna Bonnette	Kyle Maguire
Heather Coats	Meredith Mohr
Chelsea Cooper	Lauren Mondin
Sean Crenwelge	Norma Ogbonna
Laura DuBose	Austin Pearce
Mary Ferguson	Julie Taylor
Morgan Foulkes	Brittany Winner
Amanda Howard	
Christopher John	

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