



Sam Houston
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The Dialogue

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

CONTACT US AT:

honors@shsu.edu

936-294-1477

FEATURED SEMINAR: JOURNEYS

The goal of the Honors Journeys seminar, taught by Dr. Patrick Lewis, is to show students the characteristics that lead to success by inviting 10 of the most innovative and successful members of the community to give one lecture each. Usually, these are faculty from Sam Houston State University but Dr. Lewis has also invited the mayor of Huntsville, a motivational speaker from Indiana, and the Instructor of the Year from University of Texas. Speakers from SHSU have represented all of the colleges, the rec-center, the Office of the Provost, and the athletics department.

The speakers discuss how they have achieved success, the personal characteristics that could help the students in their future endeavors, or important lessons learned along their own journeys. Dr. Lewis selects speakers from a variety of disciplines with a focus on those who have overcome great odds, accomplished something interesting or surprising, been awarded an honor or received recognition in their field or university, or have an interesting journey to share.

The format is very open so that students have the chance to ask the speakers a variety of questions. Some speakers enjoy taking students outside the classroom to tour Austin Hall, dance in the College of Business building, or even climb the on-campus Health and Kinesiology Center's rock wall. This semester, Lt. David Yebra took the class to the University confidence course (pictures to the right). Students also have the opportunity to share their own journeys which are often the most intriguing of all.

The results of the seminar are often moving, and it's not uncommon for the class (speakers and students alike) to laugh and cry at different times during the semester. Journeys has often been described as the single best course students took while at SHSU.



Honors Students enjoying team building on a ropes course.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

DR. SHERYL MURPHY-MANLEY

Dr. Sheryl Murphy-Manley received her B.M.Ed. and M.M. in conducting from SHSU in 1985 and 1987 respectively. She earned her Ph.D. in musicology at the University of Texas at Austin in 1996, focusing on Neapolitan sacred music of the 1760s. Since joining the SHSU faculty in 2001, she has been especially interested in the activities of the Honors College and has been co-teaching the Fine Arts Seminar for the past several years. Dr. Murphy-Manley also serves on the Honors College Council. This semester, she is team teaching a new online Honors Seminar with



Dr. Sheryl Murphy-Manley

Patrick Lewis, Jeff Littlejohn, and Sibyl Bucheli. Teaching the students in the Honors College has been one of the most rewarding activities during her 12 years at SHSU.

This semester, she presented research on video game music with two SHSU students (Michael Salinas and Conner Morgan) in Honolulu, Hawaii. Their presentation, titled "Traversing the Territory between Diegetic and Non-diegetic: Case Studies of Musical Discovery in the Legend of Zelda Game Series," observes the limitation of film theory terms when applied to academic discourse in the field of ludomusicology (the academic study of video game music), The study also compared modern aspects of game playing with those of the Esterhazy court in the 18th century.

Dr. Murphy-Manley and her students also presented this research at the American Musicological Society Southwest Chapter at Rice University.

HONORS STUDENT SHOWS EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Jennifer Seay, an English major in the Honors College, won the SHSU American Democracy Project's essay contest that required students to write about how they live out SHSU's motto, "A measure of a life is its service." All entries were required to be real stories of how the student has committed to "extraordinary service and civic engagement."

In her story, "The Power of Pennies," Seay related an experience in high school where a classmate had lost everything in a fire. Seay teamed up with her friend Shane to have a "Penny War" fund raiser, where all grade levels could compete with one another by dropping pennies into their class jars. Seay won the \$1,000 scholarship for excellence in service.



Jennifer Seay

Honors College students Sara Winbigler and Kevin Madden were among the first students at Sam Houston State University to receive an Undergraduate Research Summer Stipend. Their research project studies the impact of a new three-strikes law enacted in New Zealand in 2010.

Winbigler first proposed this idea after doing similar research on the American three-strikes law. In October, she traveled to Brisbane to present their research at the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology's 26th Annual Conference. Their research will also be presented at the Seventh Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium sponsored by the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College in April.



Sara Winbigler

FUN IN JAPAN

Steve Sears and Cody Stevens spent Summer II of 2013 in Osaka, Japan. The trip was led and taught by Professor Mark Frank from the Economics Department at SHSU. The two classes offered on the program were a historical Japanese class and an economic analysis of Japan's macroeconomic situation. According to Steve and Cody, the trip was incredible! "We got to visit many historical sites, tour the world's largest aquarium, attend a Hanshin Tigers baseball game, have BBQ in a national park with the Momoyama students, spend a day in Tokyo, and climb Mt. Fuji."

Cody and Steve recommend the program to anyone, regardless of major. "Japan is an amazing country and well worth the trip."

HONORS FRESHMEN EXCEL

Freshman year is a hard transition for most, but not for Honors students Alondra Garza and Rebekah Scholz, who were both recognized for their outstanding writing in the Freshman Essay Contest sponsored by New Student Orientation.

The First-Year Experience Office chose *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg as the common reader for 2013. The contest essay topic was on how people's habits affect political campaigns, government, or non-profit program.

Garza's was selected as the winning essay and she was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Scholz received an honorable mention.



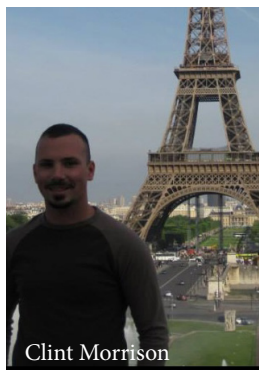
Alondra Garza (left) Rebekah Scholz (Right)

A TRIP TO PARIS

Honors Ambassador Clint Morrison studied in France last June and took two intermediate French courses at the Cité Universitaire with Madame Payne. While the experience was memorable for him in a variety of ways, his favorite places were the gardens in Paris and the town of Amboise, where he saw two chateaux and Leonardo Da Vinci's home and garden. From the walls of one of the chateaux, he was able to see all of Amboise and the river that runs through the small French town.

In Paris, Morrison visited the Musée Rodin, whose collection includes the Thinking Man and the Gates of Hell. "It also had a beautiful view of the Eiffel Tower and the Dôme des Invalides," Morrison said.

He also encourages students to experience a study abroad trip, saying, "It was a fantastic trip. I would advise anyone interested in learning more about other cultures to study abroad."



Clint Morrison

DR. DEMSON GOES GRAPHIC

Honors professor Dr. Michael Demson celebrated his recently published graphic novel, *Masks Of Anarchy: The History Of A Radical Poem, From Percy Shelley To The Triangle Factory Fire*, this past August. The novel tells of the backstory behind Percy Shelly's 1819 *The Mask of Anarchy*. Following the book's publication, Dr. Demson discussed the novel and read excerpts during the English department's Master of Fine Arts reading series.

Dr. Demson is a graphic novel enthusiast with favorites including *The Walking Dead* and the Japanese manga, *Akira*. Both of these Dr. Demson incorporated into his section of the new Honors Seminar, "The End," that made its debut appearance this fall 2013 semester.



Dr. Maria Holmes



Dr. Michael Demson

DR. HOLMES CELEBRATES ED.D. AND PUBLICATION

This past year has been eventful for Dr. Maria Holmes, who not only completed her Ed.D. but has also become a published author.

Dr. Holmes earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Counseling with emphasis in Higher Education from Sam Houston State University in May 2013. Her thesis is titled, "Ethnic and Gender Differences in Advanced Placement Exam Performance: A Multiyear National Analysis."

In July 2013, Dr. Holmes co-authored with Dr. R.M. Bustamante a chapter titled, "Challenges of Sustaining a University Honors College," in the book *Collection of Case Studies in Higher Education Leadership*.



Dr. Kimberly Bell

GAME ON

It definitely is game on for Dr. Kimberly Bell, Honors College Interim Dean, who wrote a book chapter titled, "Runes to Rede: Ludic Reading Games in the Alliterative Wheel of Fortune Poem, *Somer Soneday*." Her essay draws from literary game theory and argues that *Somer Soneday*, an anonymous thirteenth-century poem, delivers a critique of the idle pastimes of the English aristocracy, while reminding us all of the transience of earthly delights. It will come out in print this year in the first collection of essays on games in

medieval literature, *Games and Gaming the Middle Ages* (edited by Serina Patterson).

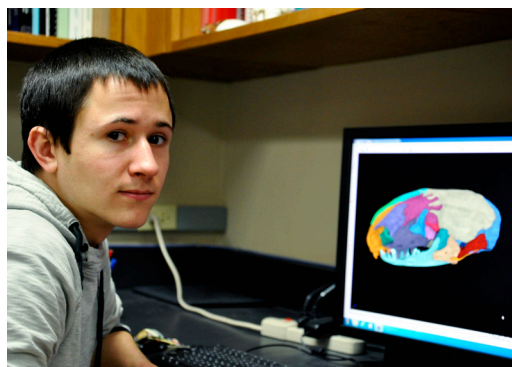
Dr. Bell is also writing her own book, *Framed Games: Metaliterary Game Strategies in Middle English Narrative*, which investigates the function of games in five Middle English poems and identifies and discusses the importance of playing games for medieval English culture in order to explain, in part, the prominence of games in Middle English literature.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
GRAYSON MEANS**

"One of the highlights of my undergraduate studies has been participating in undergraduate research with Dr. Patrick Lewis," says Honors student, Grayson Means, a biology major. Means continued, "This has given me an opportunity to really get my teeth into what is going on in the field. It has allowed me to (finally!) apply what I have learned during the last several years of classes I have taken at SHSU, which is an awesome experience."

Means' current project involves an examination of the Kalahari worm lizard *Zygaspis quadrifrons*, who live in sandy soil and spend their entire lives digging underground. Means is especially interested in the bones that compose the 'forehead,' specifically, the parietal, frontal, and prefrontal bones. Means' preliminary examination has

unearthed a surprising level of variation in the structure of these bones between members of the species *Zygaspis quadrifrons*. Currently, his project is to further investigate and describe



this variation, after which he will compare *Zygaspis quadrifrons* to other *Zygaspis* spp.

To examine the anatomy of *Zygaspis*

quadrifrons most effectively, Dr. Lewis's lab uses High Resolution X-Ray Computed Tomography scans performed at UT Austin. Means, assisted by Dr. Lewis, analyzes the CT scans using a software program that allows them to view the images in three dimensions. This software is also capable of isolating one or many bones, so they can view elements that may otherwise be obscured by 'extracting' them from the rest of the skull.

Grayson Means encourages all students to participate in as much research as they can, saying, "Undergraduate research is an amazing experience...Whether you are a future biologist, chemist, lawyer, or historian, there is a lot to discover. And who knows? You might decide to make a career of it."

“THE DIALOGUE” RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

This past semester, Dr. Maria Holmes, Assistant Director and Newsletter Advisor, and Melanie Adams, Newsletter Student Editor and Designer, traveled to the annual National Collegiate Honors Council Conference (NCHC) in New Orleans to accept an award for our Honors College newsletter. Each year NCHC holds a competition for honors programs across the nation for the best newsletter. This year, the NCHC Publications Board selected “The Dialogue” as the third best newsletter in the digital category.

Along with attending the awards ceremony, Adams was able to participate in the panel of “What Makes a Winning Honors Newsletter.”



Adams states, “It was exciting to be able to share our process of creating the newsletter while also providing encouragement to other smaller honors colleges that only have one or two people responsible for producing a newsletter.”

“We are ecstatic to have received this award because the newsletter is produced completely by our student editor,” Holmes said. Both Holmes and Adams work hard to produce a newsletter each semester that encompasses student recognition, alumni accomplishments, undergraduate research, and other exciting events and activities in which Honors College students participate.

ALUMNI UPDATES:

- ◆ **Branden Cieloch** is an Assistant Research Analyst at Tortoise Capital Advisors in Lawrence, Kansas.
- ◆ **Brittany Disiere** is a Forensic Chemist at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences in Houston, Texas.
- ◆ **Jadrian Wooten** is currently defending his dissertation and teaching in the Economics Department at Pennsylvania State University.
- ◆ **Michael Baker** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at East Carolina University in Winterville, North Carolina.
- ◆ **Maelani Negrito** is an Analytical Chemistry Technician at Dow Chemical Company in Houston, Texas.
- ◆ **Morgan Foulkes** is a financial analyst at Aon Hewitt.
- ◆ **Eryn Housinger** received her doctorate in Physical Therapy from Texas Woman’s University and is now a pediatric physical therapist at Texas Children Hospital in Houston, Texas.
- ◆ **Andrew Husband** is now writer and editor at *The Longfellow Bridge* and writer at *Boston Urban News*.
- ◆ **Amy Potter** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in English at Carnegie Mellon with a teaching fellowship.
- ◆ **Tracy Lau** is a media specialist at Alief ISD in Houston, Texas.



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE TURMAN

Honors alumna Natalie Turman graduated in 2003 and began working as a regional private banker for Wells Fargo Bank. While she was an undergraduate student at Sam Houston State University, she majored in Fashion Merchandising but also really loved her freshmen Honors history class so much that she kept the textbook. She has now returned to SHSU for her MBA.

Natalie carries on the Bearkat tradition, “A Measure of a Life Is Its Service” by volunteering for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. As a life-long baseball fan, her future goals are to visit all the major league baseball parks in the nation. So far, she has made it to nine, including Yankee stadium, where she saw the last game before it closed.



FALL 2013 HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

*DENOTES HIGHEST HONORS

MANDY DAVIDHIZAR	Banking & Finance
NAOMI DORAISAMY	English*
JANAYN EVANS	Mass Communication
JUSTIN HOOTEN	Biological Sciences
MARCUS HIGHERS	Music Therapy
ERIN HUMPHREYS	Political Science
MIRANDA LANDSMAN	Broadcast Journalism*

SAMANTHA MILLER	Interdisciplinary Studies
ASHLEIGH MUSSELMAN	Sociology
ANABEL RODRIGUEZ	Spanish & Criminal Justice
KELSEY SMITH	Broadcast Journalism*
MATTHEW STEPAN	Theatre
KRISTEN WILLIAMS	Computer Animation

FALL 2013 GRADUATES UPDATES:

- ◆ Justin Hooten is pursuing his Masters in Secondary Education at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.
- ◆ Marcus Hughes is pursuing his Masters from University of South California and hopes to start his own music therapy private practice.
- ◆ Miranda Landsman is a news reporter at KRIS 6 News in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- ◆ Samantha Miller plans to teach for Tomball ISD.
- ◆ Ashleigh Musselman is pursuing her J.D. at South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas.
- ◆ Anabel Rodriguez is pursuing her M.A. in Spanish at SHSU.
- ◆ Kelsey Smith is working as a self-employed real estate agent and hopes to continue her Honors thesis experience and pursue independent film-making.

HONORS COLLEGE SPRING 2014 STUDENT EVENTS

JANUARY 15	WEDNESDAY	8:00 A.M.	Wake up with Honors, Honors Lounge AB4
JANUARY 20	MONDAY	HOLIDAY	MLK Day: CAMPUS CLOSED
FEBRUARY 13	THURSDAY	1:00 P.M.	Reception for Outstanding Students, Peabody Library
FEBRUARY 27	THURSDAY	8:00 A.M.	Honors Advising Opens, Olson Auditorium
MARCH 6	THURSDAY	4:00 P.M.	Cultural Outing, The Aquarium & TUTS's <i>Wizard of Oz</i>
MARCH 10-14			SPRING BREAK
MARCH 20	THURSDAY	6:00 P.M.	Let's Talk! Dinner, LSC Ballroom
MARCH 21	FRIDAY	8:00 A.M.	Advanced Registration
MARCH 28-30			Great Plains Honors Conference, University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith, Arkansas
MARCH 29	SATURDAY	11:00 AM	Honors College Open House, Olson Auditorium
APRIL 2	THURSDAY	6:00 P.M.	Honors College Dinner with President Gibson, Walker Education Center
APRIL 18	FRIDAY	HOLIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 26	SATURDAY	8:00 A.M.	Undergraduate Research Symposium, CHSS
APRIL 29	TUESDAY	3:00 P.M.	Ice Cream Social, Olson Auditorium
		4:00 P.M.	Honors Assembly, HSAC Elections, Olson Auditorium
MAY 2	FRIDAY	5:00 P.M.	Last Class Day
MAY 5-9			EXAM week
MAY 9	FRIDAY	11:30 A.M.	Bowers Medallion Ceremony
MAY 9	FRIDAY	6:00 P.M.	Commencement, Coliseum
MAY 10	SATURDAY	10:00 A.M.	Commencement, Coliseum
		2:00 P.M.	



SAVE THE DATE:

- Let's Talk! A Night of Conversation
March 20, 2014
- Undergraduate Research Symposium
April 26, 2014
- Fall 2014 Honors College Application
Deadline
May 31, 2014

The Texas State University System Board of Regents 2013

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Kevin J. Lilly, Houston
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Vernon Reaser III, Bellaire
Rossanna Salazar, Austin
William F. Scott, Nederland
Matthew Russell, Student Regent, San Marcos

Chancellor
Brian McCall, Austin

Honors Ambassadors

Sahabia Ahmed	Samantha McKinley
Maryse Bakouetila	Kyle Maguire
Brianna Bonnette	Christian Morris
Trey Cawley	Clint Morrison
Tara Cobler	Joy Peterangelo
Chelsea Cooper	Sebastiaan Roling
Spencer Copeland	Brooke Selover
Sean Crenwelge	Michael Semmlinger
Katherine Hernandez	Aria Shirani
Megan Lamberth	Lea Sonby
Miranda Landsman	Heather Woitena
Stephan Little	Shealynn Vogan

Honors Faculty and Staff

Gene Young, Ph.D.	Dean
Kimberly Bell, Ph.D.	Associate Director
Maria A. Holmes, Ed.D.	Assistant Director
Jessica Correll	Administrative Assistant
Melanie Adams	Undergraduate Student Assistant, Newsletter Editor
Sarah Renfro	Undergraduate Student Assistant
Ann Ruiz	Undergraduate Student Assistant
Shealynn Vogan	Undergraduate Student Assistant

Honors Council

Kimberly Bell	English
Frank Fair	Philosophy
William Hyman	Health & Kinesiology
Patrick Lewis	Biological Sciences
Brian Loft	Mathematics
Valerie Muehsam	Business
Janet Mullings	Criminal Justice
Sheryl Murphy-Manley	Music
Stacy Ulbig	Political Science
Pamela Zelbst	Management

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Stephan Little	Vice President
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Darby Slack	Historian



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Box 2479
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