



Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

The Dialogue

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1
FALL 2014

NEW TRADITION BEGINS BY VISITING UNIVERSITY CAMP

The Honors College began a new tradition by hosting the inaugural annual Honors Fall Welcome Retreat for new Honors students at the Bearkat Camp in Riverside. Over 60 faculty, student ambassadors and new members of the Honors College spent the weekend at SHSU's University Camp grounds that provided numerous recreational activities. "We planned the Honors Retreat to provide an extended opportunity for new Honors College students to connect and develop bonds with



the new students' upper class peers who served as camp leaders, the Honors Ambassadors," Dr. Holmes said, Assistant Director of the Honors College. "We wanted our new students to quickly grasp all that the Honors College offers each student and immerse them in the Honors community early in their first semester." The retreat included various ice breaker games as well as line-dancing, zip-lining,

kayaking, and the option to participate in the camp's low ropes course. "Our Dean Gene Young entertained the new students with his guitar and singing," Holmes said. "Dr. Patrick Lewis shared his adventures in Africa and talked with the students about next year's Study Abroad trip to Zimbabwe."

Shealynn Vogan, President of the Honors Student Ambassadors said, "My favorite part of the retreat was the low ropes courses we participated in. This activity allowed the students and ambassadors to not only work together as a team but to build relationships between one another while working together for a similar goal."

Senior business major Summer Styles is another honors ambassador who attended the retreat. "My favorite part of the retreat was watching the new students get to know each other and have fun," Styles said. "I think it helped the students tremendously. They know each other a lot better now and are probably a lot more familiar with what the Honors College has to offer them." Sara Bouldin, who is new to the Honors College, commented, "My favorite part was the family-like environment and all the new friends I made." "The retreat was even more successful than we had imagined," Holmes said. "The new Honors students gained a sense of community and found friends with many common goals. At the wrap up meeting, the Honors Ambassadors were enthusiastic about continuing the retreat next year and expanding the schedule."



SAVE THE DATE! FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 25, 2015

The URS was conceived of and is hosted by the Honors College Student Ambassadors, who believe in the importance of sharing undergraduate research in a multi-disciplinary environment. It was created to:

- ◆ Provide a forum for students to present their research to faculty and other students
- ◆ Give students the opportunity to practice public speaking to prepare for future conferences
- ◆ Give students the chance to network with other students and faculty
- ◆ Help students grow as emerging professionals in their fields of study

To achieve these ends, the URS is a congenial, positive, professional environment, and faculty volunteers serve as moderators to provide informal yet constructive feedback to everyone who presents.

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

MARCH 19, 2015

LET'S TALK![™] 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.

BOWERS MEDALLION CEREMONY

MARCH 19, 2015

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

INTERNSHIP OFFERS NEW INSIGHTS TO CAREER



"I learned about my internship through the Sam Houston Criminal Justice Career Fair. To be able to become a part of the Montgomery County Juvenile Department has been such a rewarding experience. I have gotten the chance to work with some great professionals in this field. They allowed me to see what they do on a daily basis, and showed me the importance of working with children involved with the system. I spent my semester working with Field/Intake officers, in the Detention Facility, and at the J.J.A.E.P facility, an experience books could have never taught me. Although I miss going to campus every day and seeing my friends, actually stepping out into the field I will soon be getting my degree in was worth the trade."

HONORS IN THE NEWSROOM

Sam Houston State University's campus newspaper, *The Houstonian*, celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Stephen Green, Honors College senior and Editor-in-Chief, prepared for the centennial celebration by featuring the newspaper's history on line with a collection of stories from *Houstonian* alumni. More than 1,000 students have passed through the newsroom since the first issue on December 3, 1913. Stephen chronicled the influence on students' careers and shared some memorable moments throughout the years. Hannah Zedaker, Honors College student and Associate Editor, commented that the campus paper presented her with varied and unique opportunities that she would not have received elsewhere. That experience landed her an internship with

Community Impact Newspaper. The most famous editor-in-chief and long-time legendary broadcaster, Dan Rather, still operates his own newscast. Since Rather's time as editor, *The Houstonian*, a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, has won many awards for advertisement design, writing, non-photo illustration, graphics, special editions, and much more. Last year, staff members took home the inaugural Director's Trophy at TIPA, which put SHSU journalists up against much larger schools like University of Texas at Austin and Baylor University. Today, *The Houstonian* continues to serve as a learning laboratory that teaches students about journalism and ethics for aspiring newsroom editors.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. PAMELA ZELBST



Dr. Pamela Zelbst, Associate Professor of Management, made headlines with her innovation and compassion when applying her research in 3D printing technology as SHSU's Director of the Center for Innovation and Technology. Fox News Houston featured Dr. Zelbst for helping a local girl, Zoe Clancy, have the opportunity to live life normally. Zoe was born

without a right hand as a result of Amniotic Band Syndrome. Zoe's mom reached out to the Center for assistance in developing a mechanical prosthesis. Dr. Zelbst and her team of students worked diligently to craft a new hand for Zoe with the 3D printing technology. With her new hand, operated by subtle movements of the wrist, Zoe was able to take a piece of paper and drop it into a trash can. Dr. Zelbst commented, "I can't think of a better reason to be involved in innovation than to try and make somebody's life better."

Aside from her heavy involvement as director of the SHSU Center for Innovation and Technology, Dr. Pamela Zelbst plays an important role in support of the Honors College. Since 2009, he has served on the

Honors Advisory Council, and currently is serving on the Honors College Admissions Committee. Dr. Zelbst also serves on the campus-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium faculty and mentors numerous students conducting research projects each year. She enjoys working with Honors students saying "One of my favorite experiences was working with five honors students on a project where we integrated Radio Frequency Identification with a Robotic Kanban system. The students worked with me for an entire year. As a result they took their project to the URS, plus they fulfilled an honors contract. I cherish the relationships that have formed with these honors students as result of working with them on these types of projects."

MY LIFE IN IRELAND

STUDY ABROAD: LEANN HARREL

Dia duit (Hello)! This summer I lived in Galway, Ireland for 4 ½ weeks as a part of an International Studies Abroad program. During that time, I attended two courses at the National University of Ireland in Galway (NUIG) and embarked on several excursions over the weekends to places such as the Dingle Peninsula, Aran Islands, Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, Co. Clare, and Dublin. As an international student, I took two classes: Gaelic Literature and Culture with Dr. Kicki Ingridsson and Liam Ó hAisibéil; and Negotiating Identity: Irish Traditional Music and Dance with Dr. Méabh Ní Fhuartháin and Verena Commins. In each class I got to learn more about the history and development of Ireland in a hands-on fashion whether it was through a dance workshop or through reading translations of medieval texts.

I found it interesting that Ireland is a mostly bi-lingual country with the official languages being English and Gaelic; originally, I had believed that Gaelic was just the ancient language of the past before English became predominant. However, in some parts of the country there are areas called “Gaeltachts” which are solely

Gaelic-speaking regions. Unlike the rest of the country, these areas have nothing written in English, but the people will sometimes still speak English if absolutely necessary. It is a very strange, but beautiful language with several hidden and silent vowels and throat sounds.

The weekend trip to the Dingle Peninsula was my absolute favorite part of the trip. That area of the country had the most beautiful scenery with the perfect mix of mountains and ocean. The sheep scattered across the landscape were super cute with different colored dots spray-painted on by the farmers to mark their herds. Dingle also had delicious food (namely the fish and chips) and the live traditional music at every pub was just wonderful. If I had to choose where in Ireland to live, it would be there. Galway would be a very close second because it is right on the bay, is a relatively small city, and also is rich in talented musicians and other street performers.

I would wholeheartedly recommend a study abroad trip. This trip helped me expand my horizons well beyond my comfort zone. Before this summer, I had

never been to another country, so I was introduced to a whole new world of people and a culture I was unfamiliar with. Since I went with a large organization, but didn't know anyone going into the trip, I had an immediate set of 40 new friends from the U.S. that were in the same boat as me. Everyone was extremely friendly and my super amazing Resident Directors Mark Doyle and Dermott Henry were always willing to go above and beyond to make our visit the best it could be. At NUIG, I was able to expand my educational horizons by being exposed to a different type of curriculum. I also learned to appreciate some of the luxuries we have in the U.S.; for example, I went a whole month without a dishwasher OR air conditioning. Even though it was much cooler than in Texas at the time, sometimes an open window just doesn't cut it. Pieces of my heart are now scattered across both Ireland and the U.S., but it was totally worth it and I yearn to return and explore other countries as well.

Sláinte! (Cheers!)

-Michelle Harrel



TRIP TO TOKYO

STUDY ABROAD: OLIVER DUBIEL AND SARAH LANDSMAN

Honors Students Oliver Dubiel and Sarah Landsman traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to study Economics and tour the Tokyo stock Exchange with Dr. Mark Frank. Dubiel and Landsman saw the Kegon Waterfall and were able to fully experience Japanese culture. Dubiel was also able to check off a task on his bucket list. He, along with four other students on the trip, attempted to climb Mt. Fuji to the very top (about 12,388 ft.) Dubiel commented, "Unfortunately, I was the only one who made it to the top on time for the sunrise [around] 4:15 am." Dubiel and Landsman were able to learn more about the Japanese economy and the Asian culture in general.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

INVESTING IN HONORS

Many students require additional financial support in order to broaden their academic experiences and would be unable to do so without assistance from outside sources. The administration and faculty of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College understand the importance of a cultured education for Sam Houston State University students and are committed to providing assistance in any way possible. Each year, the Honors College generously awards additional student funding in support of travel to academic conferences, thesis and research development, and study abroad opportunities. These funds are

generated by the annual "Let's Talk!" event that is hosted by the Office of the President and held each spring semester. During the 2013-2014 academic year, the college awarded over \$15,000 to 29 Honors students for such opportunities and is on track to match that amount in the upcoming year.

In the fall 2014 semester, Honors Student Ambassador Megan Lamberth received one such scholarship and studied at the Ali Baba Language Institute in Amman, Jordan. Senior Emily Thomas joined fellow sociologists at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Laurie Grawl



Researching art as a therapeutic technique to help hospital patients recover more quickly, Laurie Grawl was recently featured on the Sam Houston State University web page. After thirty years of raising her children and working various jobs, from a radio talk host to an independent business owner, Grawl decided to come back to school to finish her art degree. Driving her desire to research the healing properties of art was her most recent complications with a heart disorder that left her hospitalized. Now that she is healthy and back at school, Grawl continues her research into the healing properties of art and how art is used in various hospitals across the country. Along with this research, Grawl is exploring another fascination, botanical illustration. After completing an online course in Botanical Drawing with Cornell University, she began an independent study to “artistically render the historically significant trees and plants on the campus and museum grounds tying their location with the current campus walking path.” Grawl hopes that by the end of her year of research she will be able to create a traveling art exhibit and a book from her drawings. She hopes to take a portion of the profits from her research and fund scholarships for other students.

IMMIGRATING TO SUCCESS

Assimilation to American culture is no small feat, but Honors student Oscar Aguilar has faced adversity and expects to graduate from SHSU with Honors in December after years of working hard to achieve his dreams. Aguilar emigrated with his four other siblings from El Salvador when he was 11 years old, during a terrible civil war that was devastating the country. Following the advice of his father, Aguilar never gave up and kept to his father’s words that “if you have a goal, you have to stick to it.” Growing up in a new place, Oscar experienced many language barrier problems that slowly started to get better when he graduated high school. After high school, he attempted to continue his education while maintaining a job but mostly focused on supporting and providing for his family. Now, after

many years of building up his cleaning company and continuing to work hard on his education, Aguilar hopes to finish his bachelor’s and continue on to graduate and then law school, to work for a non-profit organization helping others from the immigrant community understand their rights and help them make a difference in the world.



JANINE KUWAHARA

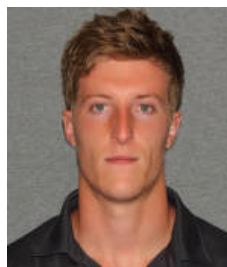


Honors College freshman Janine Kuwahara of the NCAA national champion Bearkat women's bowling team, has been a leader both in athletics and in the classroom for Sam Houston. Apart from participating in the Honors College, she has maintained a high ranking as part of the Bearkat Women's Bowling team. In fact, Kuwahara and her team won SHSU's first NCAA Division I national title.

Kuwahara posted a 192.31 average in five-player team matches during the 2013-14 season which saw the SHSU bowlers earn their third trip to the NCAA Elite Eight in the program's four-year history. The squad returned from Cleveland, Ohio, with the university's first NCAA Division I national title, defeating defending champion Nebraska in a thrilling showdown on ESPN television.

The management major from Davao City, Mindanao in the Philippines, is one of seven Sam Houston student-athletes who hold a perfect 4.0 overall grade point average

(GPA) this semester. Kuwahara led the Sam Houston women's bowling team in total pins in traditional team matches this year with a 201.6 average. She earned National Ten Pins Coaches Association All-America honors after helping lead the Bearkat bowling team to its second consecutive NCAA Final Four appearance at the national championships in Saint Louis, Missouri.



LACHLAN EDWARDS

Honors College student Lachlan Edwards, recruited from Hastings, Victoria in Australia for the Sam Houston State Varsity football team, brought many talents to campus. He is the 2014 First-team All-Southland Conference punter and led the league by ranking Number 6 nationally with 44.4 punting average. A senior in the Honors College majoring in Health Sciences and maintaining a 3.94 GPA, Lachlan was named to the 2014 Academic All-Conference.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CARLOS R. RAINER

Honors College alumnus, Carlos R. Rainer, continues to strive for the best he can be since graduating with Honors from Sam Houston State University in 1996. After he matriculated, Rainer continued his schooling at the University of Texas School of Law where he graduated in 2000. Now, Rainer is one of the top lawyers in Houston, Texas, working as one of the most trusted advisors to energy companies, financial and professional services firms, and

technology firms. He has extended his services beyond Texas to assist clients in Canada, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Africa. In June 2010, Carlos was selected as one of "Houston's Top Lawyers" for business litigation in the *H Texas Magazine*. He has also been a Rising Star in business litigation in "Texas Rising Stars," *Litigation, Law & Politics* (consecutively from 2004-2013), and as one of the "Lawyers on the Fast Track" in *H Texas Magazine*. James

Olson, Distinguished Professor of History at SHSU and Texas State University System Regents Professor, commented, "Carlos is one of the finest, most promising young attorneys in the United States. His gifts – intellectual acuity, verbal clarity, and clear expository prose – have taken him to the pinnacle of legal success for a young attorney. I am confident that SHSU will someday claim him as one of its most influential alumni."

ALUMNI NOTES:

- ◆ Maryse Bakouetila is pursuing her M.D. at St. George's University in Grenada
- ◆ Elizabeth Braun is pursuing her Ph.D. in Chemistry at The University of Texas at Dallas. As a graduate research assistant, she published an article, "The Importance of an Extensive Elemental Analysis of Single-walled Carbon Nanotube Soot," with Paul Pantano in the online journal, *Carbon*
- ◆ Brian Drake is now the Department Business Administrator at University of Houston, Downtown
- ◆ Iryna Romanenko is pursuing her MBA at SHSU and has accepted a position as Next Generation Accountant with National Oiwell Varco in Houston, TX.
- ◆ Ayomide Shittu is volunteering with NSB-Worldwide as a Project Coordinator for their upcoming Entrepreneurship Educational conference.



FALL 2014 GRADUATES

College of Business Administration

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sahabia Ahmed* | Tinotenda Chabaya |
| Amanda Colbourn | Oliver Dubiel |
| Kirsten Kubas | Stephen Sears* |
| Juan Torres | |

College of Criminal Justice

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Amanda Gunn | Nastasia Lacayo |
| Crystal Lara | Kevin Madden |

College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Shannon Boone | Katherine Borg |
| Rachel Drewes | Lauren Hansen |
| Thomas Howarth | Amber Jamison |
| Laura Norby | |

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Oscar Aguilar* | Teresa Duarte |
| Diane Hawes-Pipho | Christa-Maria Lumsden |
| Kaisa Marshall | Clinton Morrison, Jr.* |
| Skye Parsons | Jennifer Seay |
| Brooke Selover | Darby Slack |
| Elora Terry* | |

College of Sciences

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Charles Funk, Jr. | Hannah Johnson* |
| Deborah Koch* | Yanxin Liu |
| Julia Swyden | |

*Denotes Highest Honors

GRADUATE UPDATES:

- ◆ Oliver Dubiel is pursuing his Master's in Business Administration in International Management at the EBS Business School in Reutlingen, Germany. He also is interning with Audi for 6 months before beginning his MBA.
- ◆ Hannah Johnson is pursuing her Master's in Biology with emphasis on Genetics at SHSU.
- ◆ Clinton Morrison Jr. is pursuing his Master's in English at SHSU.
- ◆ Stephen Sears is pursuing his JD at University of Texas at Austin.
- ◆ Brooke Selover is working as Project Coordinator for Brodleaf Group in Houston, TX.
- ◆ Julia Swyden is gaining Vet-tech experience with Center Ranch in Centerville, TX.
- ◆ Elora Terry is working on her Master's in English at SHSU.



HONORS COLLEGE FALL 2014 EVENTS

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|---|
| AUGUST 23 | SATURDAY | 11:00 AM | New Student Move In |
| AUGUST 25 | SUNDAY | 4:00 PM | New Student Convocation, GPAC |
| AUGUST 27 | WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM | Wake up with Honors, Honors Lounge, AB4 |
| SEPTEMBER 4 | THURSDAY | 4:30 PM | HSAC General Meeting, Olson Auditorium, AB4 |
| | | 5:00 PM | Honors Assembly (Mandatory), Olson Auditorium, AB4 |
| | | 5:30 PM | Honors College Photo, Clock Tower |
| | | | |
| SEPTEMBER 5-6 | FRI.- SAT. | 3:00 PM | Honors Welcome Retreat, University Camp, Riverside, TX |
| SEPTEMBER 8 | MONDAY | 4:00 PM | Honors Ambassadors Meeting, Honors Lounge, AB4 |
| SEPTEMBER 12 | FRIDAY | 5:00 PM | Deadline: Course Contract Proposal Forms |
| | | | Deadline: Honors December Graduation Declaration Forms |
| SEPTEMBER 13 | SATURDAY | 12:00 PM | Honors Parents Luncheon, LSC Ballroom |
| OCTOBER 6 | MONDAY | 4:00 PM | Honors Ambassadors Meeting, Honors Lounge, AB4 |
| OCTOBER 9 | THURSDAY | 6:00 PM | Homecoming Parade, Town Square |
| OCTOBER 11 | SATURDAY | 11:00 AM | Homecoming Tail Gate, Bowers Stadium |
| OCTOBER 31 | FRIDAY | 5:00 PM | Deadline: Honors Thesis Final Approval Forms |
| | | 7:00 PM | Spivey Haunted House, Spivey House |
| NOVEMBER 1 | SATURDAY | TBA | Battle of the Piney Woods, Reliant Stadium, Houston, TX |
| NOVEMBER 3 | MONDAY | 4:00 PM | Honors Ambassadors Meeting, Honors Lounge, AB4 |
| NOVEMBER 15 | SATURDAY | 11:00 AM | Sat at SAM Open House, Olson Auditorium, AB4 |
| NOVEMBER 21 | FRIDAY | 6:00 PM | High School Honors Dinner, LSC Ballroom |
| DECEMBER 4 | THURSDAY | 5:00 PM | Honors Assembly (Mandatory), Olson Auditorium, AB4 |
| | | 5:30 PM | HSAC General Meeting, Olson Auditorium, AB4 |
| DECEMBER 5 | FRIDAY | 5:00 PM | Last Class Day |
| DECEMBER 8-12 | MONDAY | NONE | EXAM week |
| DECEMBER 11 | THURSDAY | 5:00 PM | Bowers Medallion Ceremony, LSC Ballroom |
| DECEMBER 12 | FRIDAY | 5:00 PM | Deadline: Course Contract Certification Forms |
| | | | Deadline: Community Service Hours Verification Forms |
| DECEMBER 12 | FRIDAY | TBA | Commencement, Coliseum |
| DECEMBER 13 | SATURDAY | TBA | Commencement, Coliseum |

The Texas State University System Board of Regents 2013

Donna N. Williams, Chairman, Arlington
Ron Mitchell, Vice Chairman, Horseshoe Bay
Charlie Amato, San Antonio
Jaime R. Garza, San Antonio
Kevin J. Lilly, Houston
David Montagne, Beaumont
Vernon Reaser III, Bellaire
Rossanna Salazar, Austin
William F. Scott, Nederland
Matthew Russell, Student Regent, San Marcos

Chancellor
Brian McCall, Austin

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 |

Honors Ambassadors

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sahabia Ahmed | Samantha McKinley |
| Maryse Bakouetila | Kyle Maguire |
| Brianna Bonnette | Christian Morris |
| Trey Cawley | Clint Morrison |
| Tara Cobler | Joy Peterangelo |
| Chelsea Cooper | Sebastian 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 |

HSAC Officers

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Melanie Adams | President |
| Stephan Little | Vice President |
| Anthony Bagwell | Secretary |
| Darby Slack | Historian |

Honors Faculty and Staff

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Gene Young, Ph.D. | Dean |
| Kimberly Bell, Ph.D. | Associate Director |
| Maria A. Holmes, Ed.D. | Assistant Director |
| Patrick Lewis, Ph.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 |

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