

SHINE & RISE

ANNUAL REPORT





**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
ALMA MATER**

All hail to thee,
Our Houston University.
Our hearts fill with gladness
When we think of thee.
We'll always adore thee
Dear old varsity,
And to thy memory cherished,

True we'll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942



One of my earliest college memories ...



... is of me and a few brand-new friends trudging through a typical Houston downpour, trying to find the lecture hall for our Human Situation class. For many freshmen, this flagship course is their first exposure to the quintessential Honors experience, where students are encouraged to think critically and explore topics outside of their field of study. Luckily for us, this would not be the last time that we found ourselves immersed in this interdisciplinary approach to learning.

Although getting lost in the rain on the way to lecture is a great way to bond with your classmates, my favorite memory has to be the time I represented the Honors College in our nation's capitol as a member of the inaugural cohort of Honors Smithsonian Institution interns. This experience led me to enroll in an evening seminar with the Menil Collection's head librarian where we discussed the ethical dilemmas art museums face today. As a business major, I hadn't expected to find so much joy in working with and studying museum collections! But, thanks to the Honors College, I was able to have a diversified collegiate experience that allowed me to explore passions outside of my degree plan while tying everything together through my coursework as a Leadership Studies minor. Opportunities like these, made accessible through generous scholarships provided by the College, are what rightfully earned the Honors College a place on the "Inside Honors" list of the nation's top ten honors programs and colleges.

As a student, I was able to give back to the Honors College through my service as a Student Governing Board officer, a Mentorship Program Executive, and as an employee in the Student Services Office. However, as a young alumna, I've been thinking a lot about how my fellow alumni and I can embody the phrase "true we'll ever be" in our post-graduate lives. I hope to stay true to my alma mater through the hard work and dedication I show in the workplace, through my involvement in fundraising that provides scholarships to students seeking the same opportunities generously provided to me, and through the never-wavering pride I have for the continual growth and success of both the Honors College and the University of Houston.

Graduating from the University of Houston does not end my relationship with the Honors College - it only changes the scope, allowing me to give back in a new way to the place that I fell in love with four years ago.

Madison Richard ('17)



a True Education

Truth flourishes, according to the poet W.B. Yeats, “where the student’s lamp has shone.” The lamps of freshman Honors students shine late into the night as they study Homer, Shakespeare, Spinoza, Yeats, and Woolf. Immersion in Great Books is the trailhead that leads on to explorations of a myriad of intellectual and professional possibilities. These paths are paved with opportunities to serve and learn, to work and research, to travel away and abroad. An Honors College education engages with the best the university experience has to offer—and looks to the world beyond the hedgerows.



Energy & Sustainability

Houston is the energy capital of the world. The Honors College responds to the economy and culture of its hometown with its interdisciplinary Energy & Sustainability program. This year, students in the E&S minor investigated energy efficiency, risk analysis and assessment, and, in a capstone seminar with John Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil, case studies in policy improvement.

a True Education



Leadership Studies

In the classes of the Leadership Studies minor, theory meets practice. Today's students begin their transformation into tomorrow's leaders in courses that challenge them to engage with everything from the local community health to the dynamics of globalization. And in a year when a Republican Presidential Debate brought the national media to campus, a class on political campaign debates could not have been more relevant.

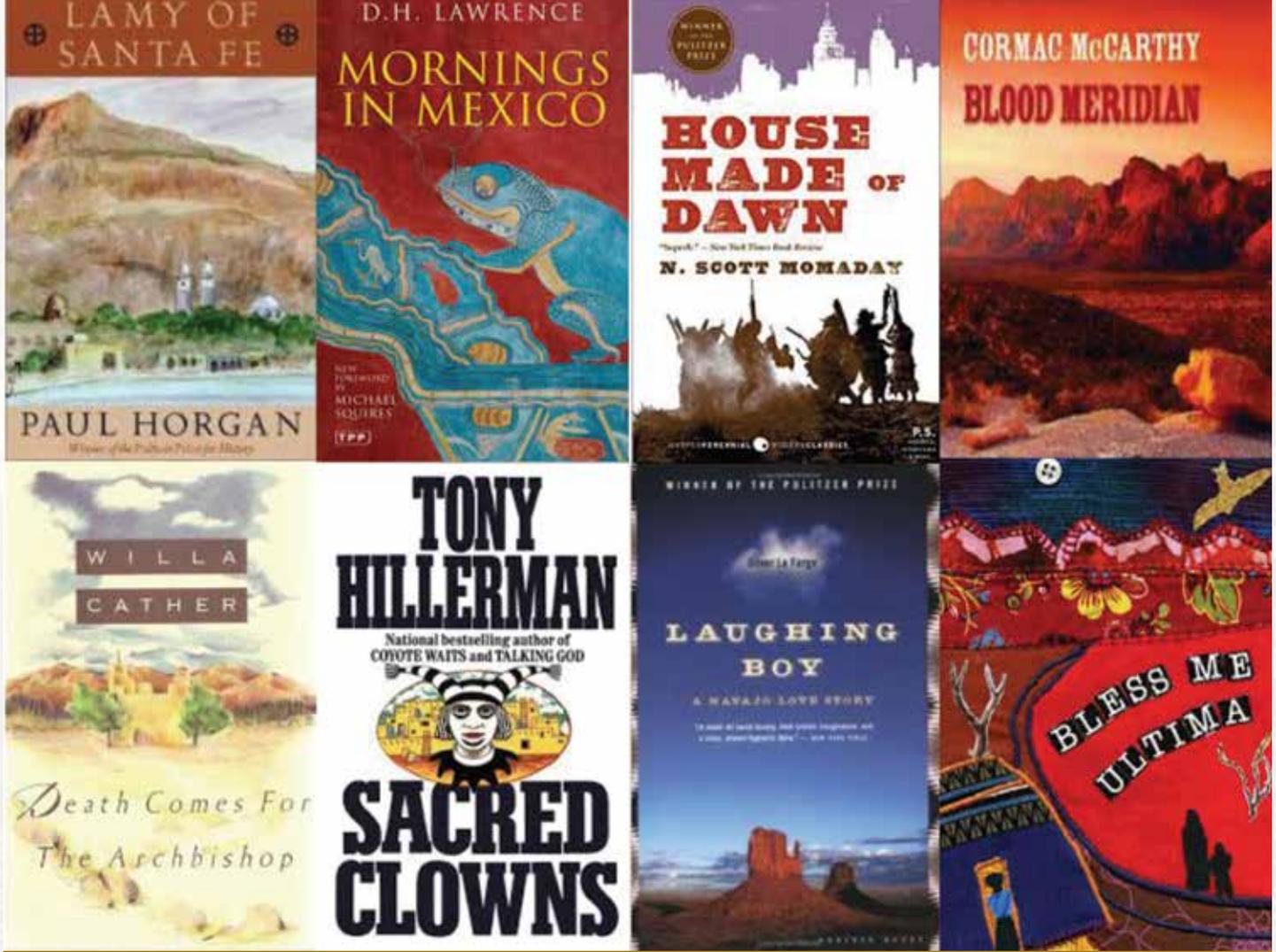
a True Education



Phronesis

Phronesis, the Honors College minor and program in Politics and Ethics, puts classical texts and ideas into conversation with contemporary minds and issues. This was a particularly busy year for *Phronesis* students, as they availed themselves of classes on a wide variety of ancient and modern philosophical topics, joined new reading groups discussing great books and great lives, and attended visiting Master-Teacher Dr. John Briggs lectures on both Shakespeare and Lincoln.

a True Education



Artists & Their Regions

This year, the signature course of our Creative Work minor brought students—first imaginatively and then literally—to the extraordinary cultural crossroads that is New Mexico. After classroom explorations of regional art, film, and literature, our study away group got to discover legendary locations such as Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque for themselves. Participants shared their creative responses during a special “Fiesta” held in the Honors Commons at the end of the semester.

Galápagos

Travel Abroad

We love our fishbowl classrooms, but their very architecture—those glass walls—tell us that we must look, and move, beyond them. One of the best ways of doing so is through the “peak experience” of study abroad. On these carefully curated trips (providing opportunities to serve, learn, explore), cultures and ecosystems become classrooms. In the Honors College, we go places.



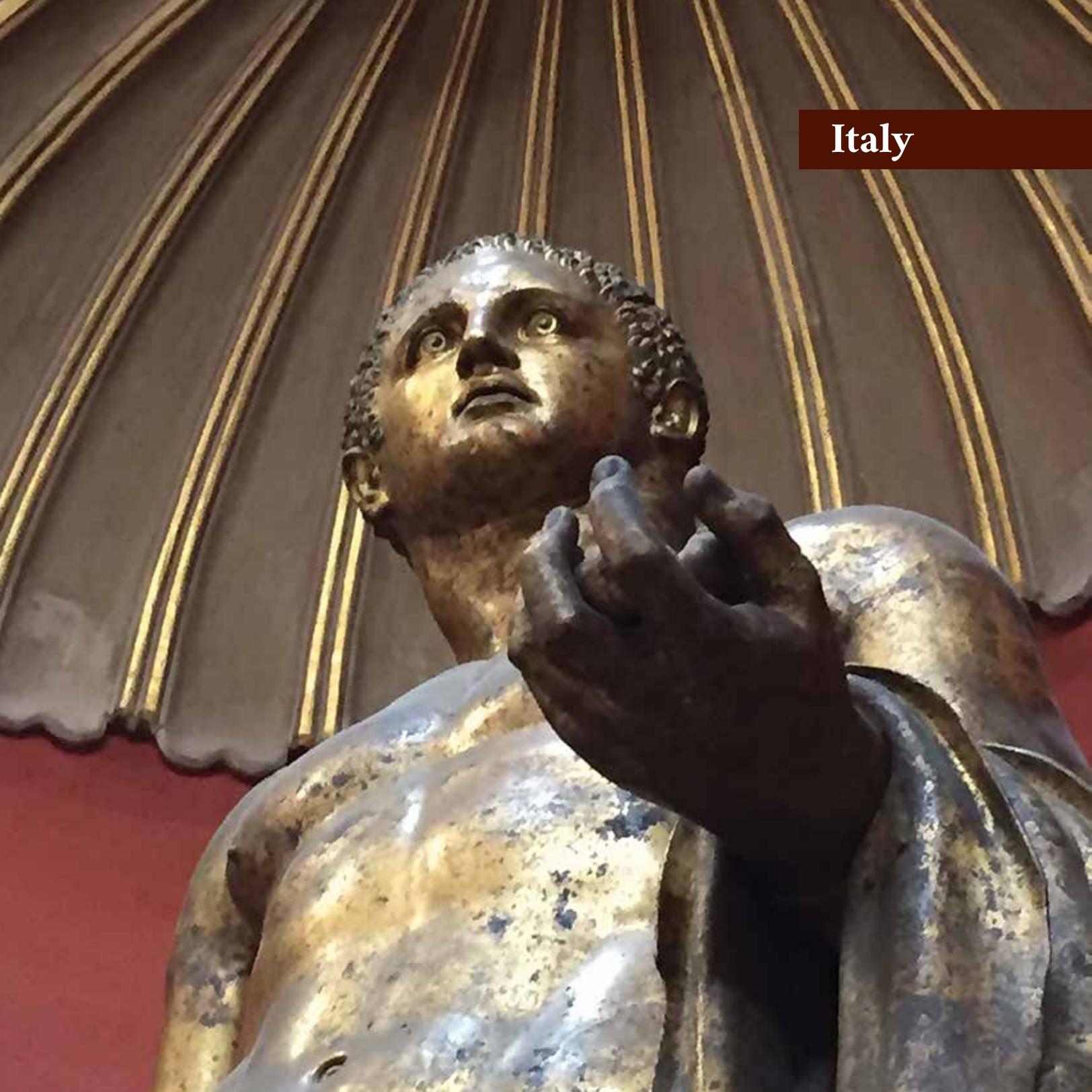
a True Education



Greece

a True Education

Italy



A group of approximately ten tourists, seen from behind, are walking along a dirt path that winds through a dense forest of tall, slender trees. The tourists are dressed in casual summer attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and backpacks. In the distance, through the trees, the ruins of an ancient stone structure are visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The overall atmosphere is one of a guided tour in a historical or natural setting.

Israel

a True Education

Undergraduate Research Day

A fall festival of ideas and knowledge development, Undergraduate Research Day (URD) has become an October tradition in the M.D. Anderson Library building. Organized by the Office of Undergraduate Research, URD is a tribute to the intellectual curiosity of our students and mentorship of their faculty supervisors. This year's URD featured more than 200 student presentations, the largest number ever. Topics ranged from framboids to medieval fashion, smartphone use to swarm object manipulation.





Houston Early Research Experience

The Houston Early Research Experience (HERE) was one of the College's most exciting initiatives this year. Understanding that tomorrow's winners of nationally competitive scholarships are today's high-achieving freshmen and sophomores, the Office of Undergraduate Research started this seminar series to help those students hone their research skills. Taking our city as its subject—UH is a great metropolitan university—the inaugural series explored Houston's diversity, emergency preparedness, civil rights history, and the famous Ship Channel.



Houston Scholars

Dozens of UH students are now involved with this exciting new program, launched in the fall of 2015. Houston Scholars, who represent a wide-range of majors, are able to take advantage of the menu of interrelated services the program has to offer: academic mentorship, research proposal development, briefings on award opportunities, scholarship application consultation, and faculty-led seminars. The program's mission is to help form great researchers, and inspiring and ethically-minded leaders.



Speech & Debate

It was a political year for our debate team: they not only appeared on local television to comment on the presidential debates, but also took roles and debated the major candidates' climate policies at one of our Grand Challenges Forums. And since, at its root, politics is about being civic, the team served its community by hosting the Cougar Classic tournament in January for the next generation of college debaters.



Club Theater

One of the great “grass roots” organizations in the College, Club Theater attracts students who love to act, direct, produce, and write, but don’t *necessarily* want to make a career of it. These dedicated amateurs—in the best sense of the word—presented a showcase of short plays in both the spring and fall of this year. These were entertainments “ready to make you laugh, cry, think, and laugh some more.”



Grand Challenges Forum

Our new Friday institution, the Grand Challenges Forum, encourages the UH campus community “to think critically, discuss openly, and learn unequivocally.” This year, the GCF had room for bold ideas only—with *The Next Big Thing* being the theme in the spring, and *Revolution* in the fall. Our inspiring and diverse set of speakers applied these themes to a wide range of fields, including business, medicine, education, ethics, and technology.

a True Education



True to Each Other

The Honors College is, first and foremost, an academic community. Building that community is at the heart of our mission. New students sense this commitment from the start: as they take part in the fun at the Honors Retreat; as they listen to and learn from fellow students, their Honors Mentors; as they break bread with their teachers during Dinner with the Profs. And that commitment to community doesn't stop at the glass doors of the College. Our Bonner Leaders Program helps our neighbors with initiatives in nutrition and education. Our pre-med students can earn certification as community health workers and participate in service learning trips overseas. Our sense of community knows no limits.



Dionysia

The Honors College's Center for Creative Work presents this multi-location arts festival every spring. Invoking both Homer and Nabokov, this year's theme was "Speak, Memory ... Stories of our Houston Odyssey." The festival culminated with "A Return Home" at the Menil Collection. The evening featured outstanding performances by soprano Misha Penton, playwright Thomas Meloncon, and classicist Stanley Lombardo whose translations of Homer are a Human Situation favorite.

True to Each Other



Honors Retreat

“All aboard for Honors Retreat!” announced the counselors, and while the buses carrying our new students may not have literally departed from Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$, there was magic in the air when everyone arrived at Camp Allen for two days of Harry Potter-inspired fun. Freshmen were sorted into small groups such as Gnomes, Elves, Centaurs, Goblins, and Unicorns and displayed their skills both on the stage for Honors Follies and in the field for the annual faculty vs. students softball game. Faculty “wizards” added to the enchantment of this Hogwarts in the Pines.

True to Each Other

Habitat for Humanity



By helping economically challenged families move into “simple, decent, and affordable housing,” Habitat for Humanity has become one of the most admired non-profit organizations in the nation.

This year, our students assisted the dream of home ownership by volunteering at the Habitat’s ReStore center and at a new build in northeast Houston. Indeed, our Bonner Leaders Program made working on the house part of their summer retreat.

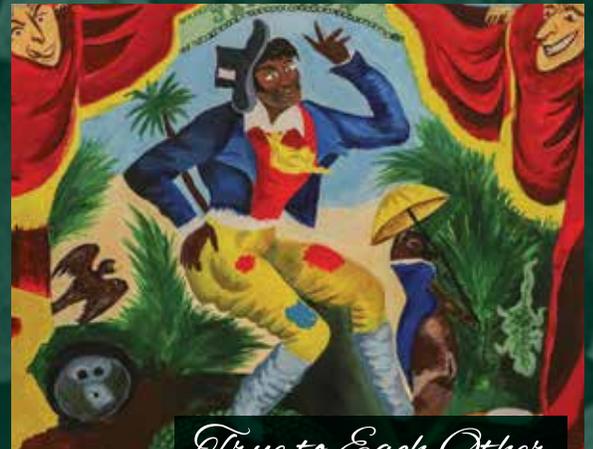


True to Each Other

20th Century Great Migration



Honors College students in U.S. History II classes responded imaginatively to one of the most dramatic stories in American history—the 20th century migration of millions of African-Americans from the South. Their projects went on display in the Honors Commons. One of the most striking features of the exhibition was the variety of the media the students utilized: digital art, replica newspapers, film, poetry, dance, and original music, to name just a few.



True to Each Other

Medical Service Learning

Seventeen students and alumni took part in this year's Medicine & Society trip to Santa Ana, Honduras, once again working in conjunction with the Houston Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation. Honors College alumna Abby Hagan shot a video of the experience at Santa Ana and captured the spirit of the service there through the admiration of clinic physician Carol Gomez. Dr. Gomez described our students in these words: "They don't say, 'We have this project. We want to do *this* in Santa Ana.' They say, 'What do *you* want to do?'"



True to Each Other

The Bonner Leaders Program

The year got off to an auspicious start for the program: it won the Academic Excellence Award from the University of Houston System Board of Regents. “Recognized for uniting scholarship and community,” the Bonner Leaders continued to blend these worlds throughout the rest of another productive year of service and engagement. Innovative Bonner projects include the iWISE and LOBO Prep tutoring programs; the Campus Kitchen meal delivery and nutrition initiatives; a partnership with METRO, focusing on accessibility challenges; and the Honors in Community Health program at Cuney Homes.



True to Each Other

Student Organizations

The Honors College—you'll come for the classes and stay for the fun! Our students are not only “dual citizens” (belonging to both the College and the school of their major), but also engaged undergraduates who take on a variety of roles on campus. As an Honors student, you can be a Bleacher Creature, an Honors Ambassador, or a Mentor for freshmen—or all three. Tomorrow's leaders emerge from organizations such as the Student Governing Board and Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society. Students involved in the Model Arab League and the Speech and Debate Program represent UH at prestigious national events.



True to Each Other

Medicine & Society

Our medical humanities and ethics program continues to attract large numbers of talented students, interested in becoming the kind of “empathic, compassionate, and attentive” health professionals MedSoc envisions. This year, community health was a particular concern for professors and students, whether it involved gathering narratives at New Hope Housing in Houston’s Third Ward or working at a clinic in south India. About the latter experience, program director Dr. Helen Valier observed, “Community health education topics are paramount for medical mission trips because the knowledge stays behind even after we leave.”



True to Each Other



True we'll ever be

The success that Honors students experience in the College lasts a lifetime. Our graduates are fearless readers, inspiring leaders, curious minds, engaged citizens. They carry out into the world a skill set that includes critical thinking, problem solving, and effective communication. But no matter where their adventures and achievements lead them, Honors alumni remain connected to their alma mater. Whether it's in the form of a table at The Great Conversation, a podium at the Grand Challenges Forum, or simply an email to an old professor and mentor, we get to hear so many of their stories. And we love to learn how they are flourishing.

The Great Conversation

In March of this year, for the 24th time, “town and gown” came together for The Great Conversation, the pioneering event that is part dinner party, part seminar. And while this was a very special night in Houston, ideas and imaginations ranged far beyond present day H-Town: from the enchanting land of New Mexico to the storied vineyards of France; back to the politics of the 1960s and forward to the future of energy production. It was a wonderful evening of breaking bread and sharing insights.



True we'll ever be

Tier One Invitational



It was an “all hands on deck” situation bright and early one Saturday morning in January as dozens of Honors students, professors, and staff members welcomed hundreds of college-bound high school seniors to this special showcase event. These prospective Coogs got to meet key College and University personnel, learn more about specific schools and majors, see Honors housing and campus landmarks, and compete for those prestigious Tier One Scholarships by participating in group interviews.

True we'll ever be

Fall Convocation



Convocation is a calling together of the University community, but in the fall it was also an evening of celebrating together—the previous twelve months had been a period of exceptional achievement, culminating in a dream realized: the installation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, on the same stage where we now marked the beginning of a fresh academic year. Our keynote speaker in Moores Opera House was James T. Hackett. Mr. Hackett is not only former CEO of Anadarko Petroleum and former Chairman of the Board at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, but also a recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School. In other words, at an event where we recognized outstanding first year students, our special guest personified our ideal of lifetime learning.



True we'll ever be



Model Arab League

For almost thirty years, the Honors College has been sending a student delegation to Washington, D.C. for the national Model Arab League conference, a forum that highlights crucial regional and global issues. In spring of this year, that delegation was two dozen strong. Once again, Honors students were recognized for the excellence of their contributions, taking home seven “distinguished” awards and two “outstanding.” A rich co-curricular activity, MAL helps form outstanding leaders, communicators, and world citizens.

True we'll ever be

Graduation Banquet

The Honors Graduation Banquet at the elegant Houstonian Hotel is a glittering, bittersweet occasion. We are delighted with the opportunity to recognize our soon-to-be alumni for their academic achievements, for their contributions to both the life of the mind and the life of the College—but we are also sad to realize that we won't be seeing these familiar faces in the corridors, offices, and classrooms of the alma mater. Then we remember that these last four years have been just the beginning of success that lasts a lifetime, and we stand to applaud.



True we'll ever be

Phi Beta Kappa

In March, the impressive Installation Ceremony marked the culmination of the campaign to bring a chapter of the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society to the University of Houston. It was a truly presidential evening: PBK President Catherine White Berheide and our own President Renu Khator were both in attendance; President Khator and Former First Lady Barbara Bush were among the ten dignitaries honored as Foundation Members of the chapter. An inaugural cohort of eighty-one exceptional students was inducted into the Society.



True we'll ever be

A Letter From the Dean



Dear Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends,

As you have seen in the preceding pages, the “true” theme of this edition of *Shine & Rise* touches upon the past, the present, and the future. The past provided us with inspiration, as the words of the University of Houston Alma Mater, crafted by the Harmony Class of 1942, end with this moving sentiment, “And to thy memory cherished, / True we’ll ever be.”

The current Honors College community embodies the present. Our students, faculty, staff, and their supporters strive to make the Honors experience a true education: grounded in the classics, interdisciplinary in nature, engaged with the outside world, and replete with opportunities for research, travel, and service—service-learning being one of the most significant ways of being true to each other.

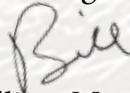
The future has its roots in the past, as those varsity voices testify. Through developments such as our signature Great Conversation, yesterday’s students, today’s alumni, help

ensure that some of the world's best and brightest become tomorrow's University of Houston graduates. Annual highlights of the Honors calendar, such as the Fall Convocation and the Graduation Banquet are not discreet occasions: they are streams and tributaries within one watershed of excellence.

Like water, excellence is an essential resource, especially in times of uncertainty. The University's seal reminds us of her motto, In Time, and that our alma mater is connected to the world "beyond the ivory tower." Our own time is not without its surprises and challenges. Now, as always, we need true things.

The point of an Honors education is to equip young men and women with evergreen skills, critical and creative abilities that will stand them in good stead throughout the years, despite the shifting landscapes of our culture, technology, and economy. Whatever the direction of the world, their University of Houston education true will ever be.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

William Monroe, Dean



The Honors College Advisory Board meets with Dean Monroe and staff.

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THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

MINORS

Creative Work
Energy & Sustainability
Leadership Studies
Medicine & Society
Phronesis: Politics & Ethics

CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

3+2 Honors Undergraduate/Nursing
Dual Degree Program (with UT)
3+3 Honors Undergraduate/Law
Dual Degree Program (with UH Law)
3+4 Honors BS/MD Dual Degree Program
(with UT Health and UTMB, Galveston)
The Honors Program in the Health Professions/
Honors Biomedical Sciences
The Houston Premedical Academy
(with Baylor College of Medicine)

CO-CURRICULAR UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCES

Bonner Leaders Program

ePortfolio Program

Global Studies Certificate

Grand Challenges Forums

Study Abroad and Study Away Programs

Service Learning Programs

Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)

Honors in Community Health (HICH)

Model Arab League

Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency

Houston Early Research Experience

Houston Scholars

Nationally Competitive Scholarships

Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Senior Honors Thesis

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

UH Speech and Debate Program

THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Common Ground Teachers Institute
Cougar Junior Scholars Summer Camp
Phi Beta Kappa Summer Academy

ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES

Phi Beta Kappa
Phi Kappa Phi
Omicron Delta Kappa

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bleacher Creatures
Club Theater
Great Conversation Decorations Committee
Honors Advocates
Honors Ambassadors
Honors College Mentorship Program
Honors Dodgeball

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

**Faber-Economon European Travel
Scholarships
Honors College Scholarships
National Merit Scholars
Terry Scholars
Tier One Scholars Program
Provost's Service Learning Scholarships**

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The back cover photo was taken with Honors students standing in front of Cotopaxi in the Andes Mountains. The active volcano is one of the highest in the world.



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

THE HONORS COLLEGE

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