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The Honors
College

The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston

Vol. 25 No. 2

COLLABORATIONS IN HONORS

Collaborating Beyond College Borders

As a College that has always shared students and faculty with the rest of the University, The Honors College has excelled at collaboration—working with departments and colleges across campus to connect students with the best the University has to offer. Recently, The Honors College has expanded this collaboration across campus and into the community. Through newly established minors and programs, students have more opportunities than ever to explore multiple areas of interest through their affiliation with Honors.

Center for Creative Work

While the Center for Creative Work (CCW) started some of its programs over the past two years, this fall the CCW launched both its minor and its foundation course, Poetics and Performance. This course, which is filled to capacity for fall 2010, bridges art, film, literature, theatre, and music with studies of culture, history, language, business, and society.

Beyond the classroom, **Dr. John Harvey**, director of the Center for Creative Work, is planning more trips to the Museum of Fine Arts for exhibits and films, more concerts at the Moores School of Music, and more readings sponsored by *Inprint*, which brings world-class writers to Houston. “We will continue our collaborations with nationally-recognized arts organizations such as *Inprint* and Spacetaker Gallery,” Dr. Harvey said, “and we will offer an even more dynamic and spellbinding *Dionysia* in the spring.”

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Top picture: Prof. Dan Price working with student Santiago Morales on analyzing stress as a cause for asthma; Dr. Price continues to cultivate relationships throughout the Houston medical community through his Asthmatic Spaces project.
Bottom picture: Intern Morgan Parrish and Prof. Helen Valier advise student Meena Syed (center) on the Medicine & Society program.

HONORS RIDES THE MS 150

That woosh you heard during the weekend of April 17-18 was over 13,000 bicycles and their riders, who pedaled the 150 miles from Houston to Austin to raise money to fight multiple sclerosis. And the best dressed of the bunch? Those decked out in slick red jerseys from The Honors College.

The ride not only brought students, faculty, and alumni together for a tiring but fun two-day trip, but it also increased the visibility of the University of Houston and The Honors College. “[Honors student] **Blair Ault** made us team jerseys, so it was a great chance to show off The Honors College brand to riders from all over the state,” **Dean Bill Monroe** said. “There were hundreds of corporation and company teams, but I think we were the only academic team. One guy helped us fix a flat and was wondering if we could give him a degree!” **James Noteware**, Director of Housing and Community Development for the City of Houston, was so impressed by the team that he expressed an interest in offering internships to Honors College students.

For the current students who rode this year, the MS 150 helped them connect to other students and set them up to recruit even more riders for next year. “It was an awesome weekend,” said **Simon Tice**, sophomore at The Honors College. “It was a great way to get to know others in the College, and the scenery and the riders were all really nice. I’ll do it next year, and I’m pretty sure there are a lot more bikers in The Honors College—we just have to find them!”

The Honors College team was noticed by several alumni on the ride as well. “Several Honors College alumni from back in the day saw the jerseys and rode beside us for a while to ask about the College and **Dr. Estess**,” Dean Monroe said. “**Kimberly Wilkinson** [wife of **Trey Wilkinson**, a member of The Honors College Advisory Board] found us and we rode together for the last 32 miles from Bastrop.”

All alumni, students, faculty, and friends are invited to ride with The Honors College next year. To learn more, email **Libby Ingrassia** at lingrassia@uh.edu.



Janet Dowden, Rhys Forgie, Greg Bohuslav, Mary Elhardt, Bill Monroe, and Emerson Vance representing Honors



Simon Tice, sophomore Honors student



Greg and Mary at the main event

KRYSTAFER REDDEN: A TALE OF TWO CITIES



Honors Student **Krystafer Redden** recently became the voice for undergraduates across Texas as he began his two-year appointment to the Undergraduate Advisory Committee of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Board meets monthly year-round and works directly with the legislature, governor, and higher education institutions, promotes access to higher education, and provides leadership on higher education policy in Texas. Redden’s appointment is to the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Board about undergraduate education. As the sole student on the Board, Redden has already begun to provide perspective and offer ideas. His first task has been to help the committee consider revisions to the statewide core curriculum. “In the two meetings I have attended so far, what has quickly become apparent to me is how attuned and attentive the Coordinating Board is to the current climate and concerns of universities across the state,” Redden said. “The obstacle—and our task, then—becomes how to craft policy in such a manner that it addresses the needs of educational institutions.”

After being invited to apply by **Vice President for Student Affairs Elwyn Lee** and **Dean Bill Monroe**, Redden was appointed by the governor to a 2-year term, which began in June. While Lee and Monroe knew Redden would be an excellent applicant to the Board, hopes were modest—this is the first time the University of Houston has had a student appointed to the Undergraduate Advisory Committee. But Redden’s profile is outstanding: a Terry Scholar, double major, and the recipient of a scholarship to fund a se-

mester in Washington from The Fund For American Studies (TFAS), he was fully deserving of the appointment.

“It’s a reflection of the quality of education in The Honors College,” says Redden, who is seeking dual degrees in political science and history, with minors in English literature and *Phronesis*. Clearly influenced by his Honors coursework, Redden says his contribution will be encouraging a move away from rote acquisition of technical skills, which he believes is “untenable” given the “pace of technological change.” Instead, he believes in the “profound necessity for all college graduates to have a strong liberal arts and humanities background.”

This fall Redden is in Washington for the TFAS Capital Semester program, living in the D.C. area with another Honors student attending the program, **John Costello**. Redden and Costello are taking 12 hours of coursework at Georgetown University and working in an internship four days per week. “This opportunity never would have come my way had I not been part of The Honors College,” Redden said. As he works to support the goals of a liberal arts education in two capital cities this fall, he’ll also be weighing his options for the future, deciding between graduate school and law school.



Prof. Sue Collins mentored Krystafer Redden in the 2010 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program.



SUMMER TRAVELS: SPAIN AND ISRAEL

Every summer since 1990, Honors College students, alumni, faculty, friends, and their families have fled the heat and humidity of Houston for another country. And this year, two groups made trips: over 30 went to Israel, and over 20 travelled to Andalusia in southern Spain.

“It’s a valuable experience to take oneself out of one’s typical surroundings and habitual ways of understanding things and experience a different culture, language, and history,” said **Founding Dean Ted Estess**, who organized and led the Israel group. “It can help one to see one’s own situation more clearly.”

The ancient city of Jerusalem was a highlight of the trip for **Andy Hall**, a senior political science major. “My favorite part of the trip was the opportunity to

walk the Old City and completely immerse myself in an entirely foreign and fascinating scene,” he said. “Even if you’re not planning on buying anything, the sights, sounds, and smells [of the market] take you back a thousand years. It also makes you realize that there aren’t any really good falafel places in Houston!”

While visiting Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, and other sites of Jewish, Roman, and more recent historical and religious interest, the group also bonded closely during their two weeks abroad. “One of the best things is seeing what happens within a group of students and faculty,” Estess said. “You learn so much about the other people in the group, and some of the deepest friendships are formed on these trips.”

The trip to Andalusia was led by Professors **John Harvey** and **Richard Armstrong**, who during the spring semester had taught a class on the art and poetry of the region. During the Middle Ages, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism flourished alongside each other during what is called *La Convivencia*.

Story continued on next page



Tour of Israel led by Steve Langfur



Group in Galilee



Professors Andy Little and Steven Di-Mattei with Andrew Thomas



David Tucker, Bill Monroe, Sara Gabler, and Andrew Thomas



Bill Monroe, Steve Langfur, and Ted Estess

SUMMER TRAVELS CONT.

“We actually were in the places where this art was created,” Harvey said. “We studied not only the medieval moment of *convivencia*, but also the places where it all took place. And when you’re in the place where these things have mattered, then you can connect them more easily to the world.”

For the students, their two weeks in Spain brought to life not just the art and culture of the region, but its inhabitants’ way of life. “It was an education by immersion,” said **Alicia Karim**, a junior business major, who says her proficiency in Spanish increased significantly during her short time there. “We were able to talk to the locals and students our age—and that gave us an idea of what it was like to live and grow up there.”

Spain’s tangled and complex religious history was also evident in the buildings themselves, said **Zahra Usmani**, a senior accounting major. “Just about every cathedral we saw was at one point a mosque,” she said. “And at the Mezquita [in Córdoba], you could see the progress of the empire in the building itself; you see the history of the country just by looking at the building.”

While an undergraduate education might seem at times to be confined to words on a page, trips like these help bring literature, history, and politics to life by putting students and faculty in the very places where the books were written and the history made.

“The poetry [of Spain] is very much about place—about the landscape, the towns, the villages, and the architecture,” Harvey explained. “A trip can take the academic, conceptual thought and ground it in a place, so students can experience what it means to truly know something.”

In 2011, the College plans trips to Greece and Ireland.



Go Coogs! The group in the Alhambra in Granada



Prof. Hayan Charara, in the Alcazaba in Malaga



Victoria Kelly, Alicia Karim, and Kyrie Ruiz at dinner in Nerja



Prof. Richard Armstrong, Plaza Mayor in Madrid



Group on patio in Córdoba, Spain

LONG WINS FARFEL

Longtime friend of Honors **Stuart Long** was awarded the Esther Farfel Award in May 2010. The award, the highest faculty honor given by the University, recognizes overall career excellence through education, research, and service. Stuart was honored at the Annual Faculty Awards Dinner on April 27, and delivered a moving speech to a packed house. *Below is an excerpt from his speech.*

“During my undergraduate years at Rice University, one faculty member stood out. His name was **Lionel Davis** and he taught my first electromagnetics course. I was so impressed that before I finished I took a total of five classes from him. It is clear to me that if I had taken him for some other course that semester, I most likely would have gone in that other direction instead. His example has reminded me many times that my ‘performance’ in the classroom may ultimately make a real difference in the choices that the students make. I believe that thought alone has been a great motivator for my teaching throughout the years.

“The next person on my list is Professor **Ronold W. P. King**. After I worked a couple of years in the aerospace industry, I decided that graduate school was beckoning. After talking to possible graduate mentors at both Berkeley and Cal Tech, and finding that they had both studied under Dr. King at Harvard, I figured that I should just go to the primary source. During my five years there Dr. King never once suggested that I come back some other time for a question that I might have. He always stopped what he was doing and gave me the time I needed. Remarkably, I was only one of a dozen Ph.D. students he had at the time. Today, after 36 years of faculty service, I still do not know how he did it.

“The next and perhaps most important influence in my career was **Liang Shen**, now a professor emeritus at

UH. While I was still a graduate student, and Liang was a newly promoted associate professor at UH, he came back to our lab at Harvard where he had been a grad student seven years earlier looking for a new faculty member for expanding his department. I really had not thought about coming back to Houston at all. But the pressure from Professor King could not be ignored, so I consented to at least come to UH for an interview. When decision time came, there is no question that I came to UH only because of Liang Shen. I met no one anywhere that was brighter or more accomplished. Once here no one could have been a better mentor. He immediately got me involved in his research and his grants. Soon we were writing proposals: Shen and Long at first, and then, subtly they became Long and Shen ones. Then, after he became Chair of the Department and began to move his research efforts to well logging, he left me to fly alone with the Applied Electromagnetics Lab that essentially he had created.

“When I was interviewed last year and the fact that I had been a professor at UH for 35 years came up, I was asked if I was now contemplating retirement. My response was that my advisor, Professor King, was an active faculty member for 70 years, so using him as my role model, as far as I was concerned, I was only halfway into my career.”



*l: Stuart pictured with son Garrett, wife Judy, daughters Brittany and Meredith, and son-in-law Scott;
r: Stuart's 6'8', 125 lb Blue Great Dane, Grayson*

VISTING FAULKNER

In July, a group of Honors students, accompanied by Honors alumni **Lee McNish** ('10, Political Science), **Andrew Thomas** ('10, English), **David Tucker** ('10, Political Science), and Professor **Andy Little**, hit the road for an eventful weekend in Oxford, Miss., where they explored the hometown of American literary-great William Faulkner.

The trip was the culmination of a month-long *The Sound and the Fury* reading and discussion group. The travelers visited Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak, explored the historic Oxford town square, paid Faulkner their respects at the Oxford Cemetery, browsed through a large collection of Southern literature at the famous Square Books, ate southeastern BBQ at Handy Andy's, took in the sights at Ole Miss, and topped off their Saturday evening with live music

and possibly the best catfish any of them had tasted at Taylor Grocery restaurant.

Before returning to Houston on Sunday, the group stopped in New Orleans to take in the French Quarter, enjoy authentic Cajun po-boys on Bourbon Street, and get soaked by a Louisiana thunderstorm. Even though it was 24 hours of driving in a 54-hour period, the exhausted travelers had a great trip.

"Oxford was an extremely fun and interesting way to end our group reading of *The Sound and the Fury*," Andrew Thomas said. "Getting to see the locations we were reading about, as well as Faulkner's house, made the book come alive and provided a deeper insight into the life of such a great American author."



Andrew Thomas at Faulkner's home



Conner Clifton with the Ignatius J. Reilly statue, the protagonist in John Kennedy Toole's novel, The Confederacy of Dunces, in New Orleans



Back Row: Lee McNish, Prof. Andy Little, Conner Lund, Front Row: Safa Ansari-Bayegan, Conner Clifton, and Seetha Jagannath outside Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak



RISING STAR KATIE DAGGETT



Although she has two degrees from the University of Houston—a B.A. in Sociol-

ogy and an M.A. in Mass Communication Studies—Honors alumna **Katie Kalenda Daggett** ('99, '03) isn't exceptional just because she has obviously spent a lot of time on campus. She's exceptional because since her graduation(s), she's maintained strong ties to the University and The Honors College which have led to increased partnerships with and service to the Houston community.

Katie was recently awarded the Rising Star Award for Service, an honor bestowed by the UH Alumni Organization in recognition of exceptional commitment by graduates under 38. Despite holding a demanding job, Katie has been an especially active Cougar alumna. She is a former President of the Young Alumni League, co-chair of Operation School Supplies, the Homecoming co-chair, Alumni Council member, and a life member of the UH Alumni Association.

"The University was such a special and critical experience in my life that it just makes sense to continue to be involved with it," Katie said. "It's also wonderful to meet fellow alumni with whom I would not normally cross paths and find a common interest in the University."

Katie is the director of development at Texas Children's Hospital, where she also works with the hospital's special events program, the Children's Miracle Network, and the hospital's new expansion. She has also helped connect current UH students to the community, both by hosting interns at Texas Children's

Hospital and by bringing the Dance Marathon (a student-led, philanthropic effort in support of pediatric health care) to both the University and the University of Houston-Downtown.

From her time in The Honors College, Katie recalls several influential professors from her Human Situation course: **Drs. Ted Estess, Sheridan Hough, and Herbert Rothschild**. "The Human Situation was a transformational course that changed the way I thought and how I approached literature and any information," she said.

Years later, she still sees marks of that course in her own work. "I tend to look deeper at leadership issues and challenges that occur in the workplace, possibly because of the unique understanding of the human situation that the Human Sit course provides," Katie said.

Beyond the classroom, Katie's undergraduate research experience—which came primarily through her senior honors thesis in sociology—gave her the confidence and skills that she still uses today. "Completing my undergraduate Honors thesis not only set the stage for my graduate work, but it also taught me the value and importance of research," she said. "So if I'm contemplating the introduction of a new initiative in the workplace, or within a social setting, I now have the ability and the confidence to gather real data—applicable data—and use it to support my efforts."

Katie and her husband Jai welcomed their first child, Kaia, this spring. Although Katie is quite busy as a new mom, she is still committed to being an involved Cougar alum. "The rewards are numerous," she said. "But most important is the reward of positively influencing the University in support of a strong environment for education and social development of students."



COMMON GROUND 2010



Diane Miller, Kausam Salam, and Ben Good

Since 1989, the Common Ground Teachers Institute has been an educational collaboration of teaching faculty at the University of Houston and teachers of

The personal and pedagogical experiences brought to the seminars enabled the fellows to learn from each other and contribute to lively discussions about the challenges facing individuals, families, and communities. The 2010 seminars were entitled “‘Come Along:’ Voyages and Journeys, Real and Imagined” (**Dean Bill Monroe**), “Reading Math” (**Dr. Elizabeth Gregory**), “There’s Comfort in the Strength of Love” (**Dr. Romanus Muoneke**), and “In Search of Home” (**Dr. Merrilee Cunningham**).

English from secondary schools throughout greater Houston. Now supported by the **John P. McGovern Foundation**, Common Ground seminars introduce teachers to significant works of different cultures, giving them the opportunity to compare and interpret them with motivated colleagues.

Each morning fellows made presentations and led discussions in individual seminars; in the afternoons, they attended luncheon readings by local poets and writers. This year’s reading series included **Robert Phillips, Laurie Lambeth, Kimberly Meyer, Hayan Charara, Robert Cremins, Sasha West, and Gabriela Maya**. The Institute concluded with a morning of presentations by fellows detailing each seminar’s subject matter, with educators from each of the seminars surveying the books, topics, and issues—often with personal notes about their own favorite books or most significant insights. In this way, fellows were able to learn about each others’ seminars and note the various approaches to teaching and reading. One fellow’s anonymous evaluation speaks volumes: “I am so thankful for Common Ground. It is an oasis in a desert of teacher programs, and there is no other program like it in Houston.”

The 2010 Institute welcomed new and returning teacher-fellows for two weeks of rigorous readings, challenging discussions, and delicious ethnic food. This year’s participants included secondary teachers from geographically and socio-economically diverse school districts. Fellows represented high schools and middle schools in Aldine, Cy-Fair, Fort Bend, Houston, Humble, Pasadena, Stafford, and Spring Branch ISD, as well as three independent schools. All told, the 42 fellows were as diverse as their districts and included teachers just starting their careers and veteran instructors with more than 20 years of experience.



Delicious ethnic food offered throughout the seminars



Lola McIntosh and Diane Miller



Honors College faculty Robert Cremins and Helen Valier



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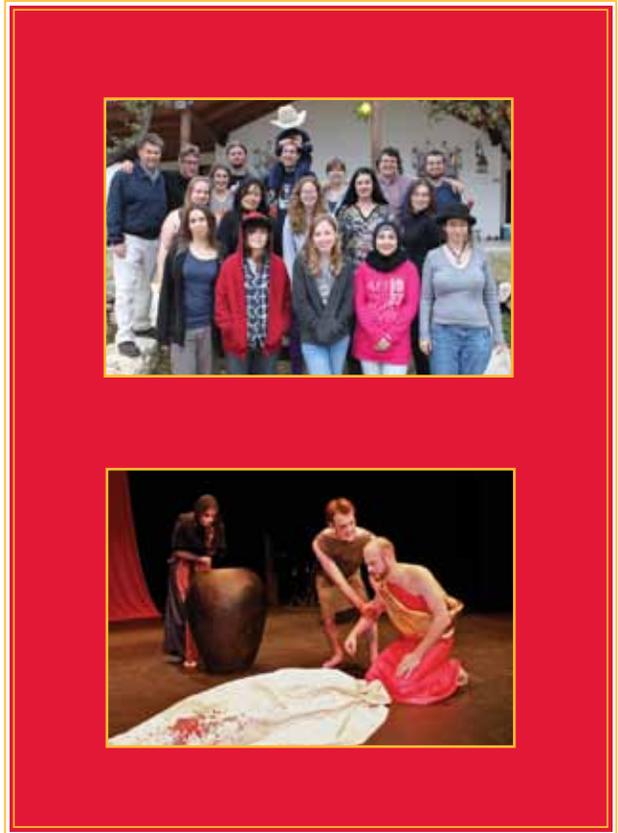
Dionysia 2010, coordinated by Harvey and **Dr. Richard Armstrong**, included an elaborate pre-show *agora* featuring student work and a procession to the Wortham Theatre for a performance of Sophocles' *Electra*. Through funding from the **Martha Gano Houston Endowment** in the Department of English, and the **Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts**, Harvey and Armstrong also hosted a one-day scholars' conference on the translation of Greek drama with **Mary Kay Gamel** from UC Santa Cruz, **Tom Jenkins** from Trinity University, and **Casey Dué Hackney** from the University of Houston Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Building on these successes, Harvey and Armstrong are already in the throes of coordinating *Dionysia 2011*, which will feature **Misha Penton**, the artistic director of Divergence Vocal Theater and a singer with the Houston Grand Opera, as Clytemnestra in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*.

Center for Creative Work

thehonorscollege.com/ccw

Global Studies Certificate

The Global Studies Certificate program is an exciting new collaboration between The Honors College and the C. T. Bauer College of Business. “This is a timely program because we are now living in a global village,” said **Dr. Robert Zaretsky**, professor of French history at The Honors College. “All of our colleges at the University are responding to the shrinking of our world—a shrinking that is financial, economic, cultural, and linguistic.” The Global Studies program, which will be directed by **Dr. Tyler Priest** of the Bauer College of Business, examines such changes taking place in Houston and around the world. Finding a natural



Top: Group from Writers and their Regions Artists' Retreat near the Frio River in the Hill Country, spring break 2010

Bottom: Mia Marie Migliaccio, Andrew Ingalls, and Mark Carrier from Dionysia 2010

home in The Honors College because of its interdisciplinary focus, the program incorporates fields as diverse as history, economics, sociology, literature, and business. “We have an exceptionally diverse campus and a number of students who travel abroad already,” Zaretsky said. “This is an excellent program for students who are seeking minors that have an international dimension.”

Honors Engineering Program

The Cullen College of Engineering has teamed up with The Honors College to offer engineering students an Honors Engineering Program (HEP). This program

Story continued on next page



Top: William Ian Miller lectures on punishment to the Honors community, an event hosted by the Phronesis Politics and Ethics program.

Bottom: Chandler Collins, Amirali Meharali, and Katie Wilson displaying their “MacGyver project” for ENGI 1100H, the first course for Honors Engineering Program students

helps recruit high-achieving students to the University and improves the academic experience for Honors engineering undergraduates. **Dr. Dave Shattuck**, associate dean for undergraduate studies, has been appointed director of the HEP. “Developing an Honors program was a way to help us recruit more top students that are looking for challenging and rewarding honors opportunities in engineering,” said Shattuck. “This is in addition to building a sense of community where students form lasting relationships with others in their major.” In addition to offering challenging, collaborative courses to engineering students, the program will offer community-building and enrichment activities such as visits to NASA, trips to Cougar, Astros, and

Dynamo games, mixers with industrial partners and alumni, and special social functions on campus. An eight-member faculty committee has already been established to provide academic and administrative support and guidance, and the next step is to create an Industrial Advisory Committee, which will provide leadership, counsel, and support to the program.

Medicine & Society

medicineandsociety.com

Medicine & Society

This year the Medicine & Society program has expanded its number of student internships offered within the Texas Medical Center. Medicine & Society students are currently working with doctors and health professionals at the Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital, the VA Hospital, and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services. The program has now also added the University of Houston–Victoria’s School of Nursing to its list of partnerships.

For the upcoming year, the program intends to expand student opportunities by creating internships within the College of Optometry and the College of Pharmacy, and also to host first aid classes for interested pre-health professions students. Medicine & Society students will also enjoy Introduction to The Health Care Professions, a new class being taught this fall by **Drs. Helen Valier** and **Kathryn Peek** in Honors. “The course aims to introduce our prospective health professions students to a wide range of practicing health professionals from the Houston area,” Dr. Valier said.

Story continued on next page

HONORS COLLABORATIONS CONT.

“Our goal is to create a class that will help students find a career that best suits their interests and abilities. By working closely with practitioners, we are confident that this class will help our students develop a better understanding of what it takes to build a successful career in the health professions.”

In other health-program news, **Dr. Daniel Price**, Honors Research Assistant Professor, is currently collaborating with members of the American Lung Association and the Clean Air Network in advancing educational programs on health effects of ozone.

Spanish Program in Honors

This fall the Department of Hispanic Studies launched a brand new program especially designed for Honors Students: Spanish Honors Language Program. The collaborative project provides an accelerated alternative to Honors College students who would like to pursue a course of study in Spanish language. Working in conjunction with The Honors College, the program will allow students to complete the equivalent of two semesters of Intermediate Spanish in a single semester of intensive instruction. Those engaged in this new program will simultaneously gain proficiency in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.

***Phronesis*: A Program in Politics and Ethics**

The *Phronesis* Politics and Ethics program is thriving and has already graduated eight students: some pursuing law careers, others headed to graduate school, and still others to enter government and public service. The program has over 30 students who are active in the minor, and in fall 2009, a new colleague from Notre Dame, **Dr. Jeff Church**, joined the program, teaching well-received courses in Democratic Theory, Liberalism and its Critics, and Introduction to Political Theory.

Phronesis has also been active in bringing visiting scholars from around the country and around the campus to Honors. Recent visitors include **William Ian Miller**, **Thomas G. Long**, Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, **Robert C. Bartlett**, Arthur Blank/NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor at Emory University, **Robert Kane**, University Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, and UH’s very own **Francesca Behr**, Professor of Classics and Italian Studies.



In addition, **James Ceaser**, Professor of Politics and Foreign Policy at the University of Virginia, will present an “Academic Tailgate” during Homecoming Week. On the evening of November 11th, **Ceaser** will give a public lecture on the midterm elections. In the spring, thanks to several grants that *Phronesis* has recently won, the program will also help support the Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency, which will host **Michael Zuckert**, a well-known political theorist and Nancy Reeves Dreux Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

These growing programs join the well-established **Bauer Business Honors** program and **Office of Undergraduate Research** as examples of how The Honors College reaches out to the entire campus community—and beyond—for students’ enrichment.

GET CONNECTED TO HONORS

We have developed many avenues for you to stay connected to the Honors community.

Please join our virtual communities to find out the latest news in Honors or to revisit with your Human Situation professors through online interviews. We also want to hear from YOU. If you have suggestions on how you would prefer to follow us, email Libby Ingrassia, our communications director, at lingras@central.uh.edu.



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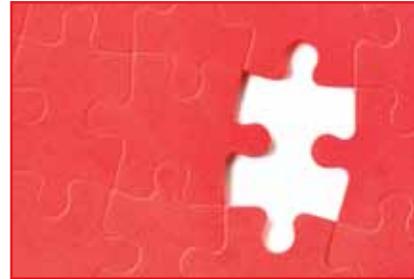
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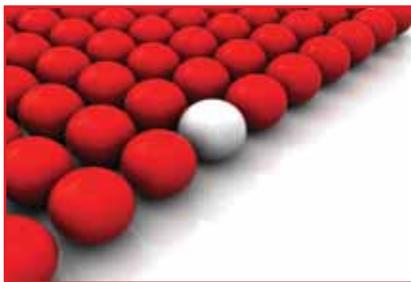
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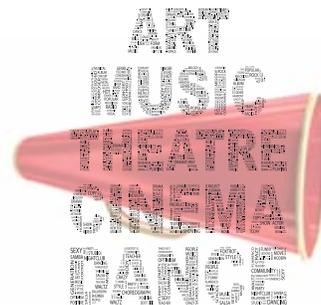
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NOTES FROM DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to all of our alumni and friends for making this a great year in Honors. The Great Conversation was a rousing success this year! It's hard to believe it was the 18th year. Many thanks to our fearless chairs: **Michael Gapinski** and **Vince Foster** and our warrior volunteers: **Karen Webster** and **Lani Ramsey**. If you'd like to volunteer for Honors events throughout the year, please let us know—the more the merrier! I know that most of you are knee-deep in your fall schedules, but please don't forget to make your annual gift to The Honors College. The Annual Fund is a critical line of support that provides The Honors College with its basic necessities. Thanks so much to all of you for making Honors such a wonderful experience for us all.
—Shannon Parrish, Senior Director of Development

Save the Date – Homecoming Week Academic Tailgate

Join The Honors College and the *Phronesis* program in Politics and Ethics for the 2010 Academic Tailgate. **Dr. James Ceasar** speaks on “The Meaning of Midterm Elections” on Thursday, November 11. There is a reception at 5 p.m., and a talk at 7 p.m. in the Honors Commons. Ceasar, a Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, has written several books on American politics and political thought, including *Presidential Selection*, *Liberal Democracy and Political Science*, *Reconstructing America*, and *Nature and History in American Political Development*, and is a frequent contributor to the popular press.



President Renu Khator, Sara White, Jane Cizik, and Bill Monroe



Andy Webster, Bill Ramsey, Mike Gapinski, Trey Wilkinson, and Andrew Davis



Vicki and Steve Smith with Jane Cizik



Prof. Sue Collins's fun-filled table at The Great Conversation



Vince Foster, Mike and Kim Gapinski



Aly Capetillo and Laura Bobrick



Scott Lemond, Connica Lemond, Olga and Gerald Balboa, and Trey Wilkinson

Photos taken by Alexander's Fine Portrait Design and Wright One Photography

1980s

Richard Dowling ('85, Music) recently opened his second Dowling Music store at Steinway Hall in New York. He faces a busy second half of the year as he travels to various locations—Mexico, South Florida, Wyoming, Montana, Kentucky, and Ohio, to name a few—performing at a variety of venues. Richard's latest CD, released on August 1st and entitled *Music of Old New York*, features 24 tracks of turn-of-the-century popular works with New York-themed titles. richard@dowlingmusic.com

Pamela O'Brien ('86, French) is owner of the Houston boutique decorating firm, Room Redo, where she acts both as a decorator and consultant, providing creative solutions to a variety of residential and commercial clients nationwide. She has served on the UH Honors College Advisory Board and as decorating chair for the annual fundraiser, The Great Conversation. Pamela is currently the co-host for the Home Show Early Edition, Sunday mornings on SportsRadio 610. pamela@roomredo.com



alumni news

Theresa M. Browne ('88, Psychology) is director of Advising & Educational Planning Services at Saint Xavier University. tjohnson@sxu.edu

Kevin O'Gorman ('89, German) recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. State Department in recognition of a federal court victory under the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction and the U.S. International Child Abduction Remedies Act. Kevin is a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP in Houston and practices international arbitration and litigation. kogorman@fulbright.com

1990s

Stephen Harper ('91, Finance) lives in Dallas with his wife, Monnie (an SMU professor), and their two children. Stephen works at Frito-Lay and has recently assumed the new role of Group Manager for Mergers & Acquisitions. stephen.harper@pepsico.com

Scott Sonsalla ('94, Business) recently transitioned from the Army's Old Guard in Washington, D.C. to duties as Profes-

sor of Military Science at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Scott was also recently selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. His wife, Lori, works as the Service Unit Coordinator for the Girl Scouts in San Antonio. Their three kids, Chanse, Lucy, and Gavin, are also active in scouts. scott.sonsalla@utsa.edu

Michael Barnes ('95, Classical Studies and English Literature) is an assistant teaching professor and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Missouri College of Arts and Science. Michael was recently awarded one of the 2010 William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence. barnesnh@missouri.edu

Matthew Brawley ('95, Radio-Television) and his wife, Ingrid, welcomed their first child, Connor Ford Brawley, on February 8, 2010. bagelsforall@yahoo.com



alumni notes

Tina Lee ('98, Anthropology) completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate Center in February. Her husband, **Damon Wilkinson** ('95, Management Information Systems), just celebrated his fifteenth year at Hildebrandt Baker Robbins. tinalee85281@yahoo.com

Katie Daggett ('99, Sociology) and her husband, Jai, welcomed their daughter, Kaia Helena Daggett, on April 5th. Additionally, Katie recently received the Houston Alumni Association's Rising Star for Service award at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner (*see page 8 for more info*).

katie.k.daggett@gmail.com

John Eshleman ('99, Mathematics) earned his Senior Professional in Human Resources certification in May 2010 from the HR Certification Institute, which is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). esh28@yahoo.com

Jesse Rainbow ('99, History) and his wife, Andrea, welcomed their daughter, Dorothy Kathrine, on May 25, 2010. Jesse was also recently awarded Harvard's Bowdoin Prize (*see page 20 for more info*).

rainbowjesse@yahoo.com

2000s

John Grace ('02, Finance & Entrepreneurship) and his wife, Stephanie, recently had their third child, Moxie Grace. John is book editor and product manager of the Science Fiction & Fantasy division of Brilliance Audio. John has helped publish three of the six novels nominated for this year's Hugo award. john@johngrace.com

Melany Morrison ('02, Psychology) recently went on a cruise to the Mediterranean sponsored by the UH Alumni Association. The trip consisted of members from the American Archeological Society, Smithsonian, and the Lincoln Center Chamber Orchestra. Melany reports that the highlight of her trip was retracing the path of Homer's *Iliad*, a text she spent considerable time with in Honors. Melany is a marriage and family therapist practicing on the north side of Houston.

melanyjmorrison@comcast.net



Stephen Tsui ('02, Physics) completed his first year as an Assistant Professor of Physics at California State University San Marcos. (Yes, there's a San Marcos that's not in Texas!) sttsui@csusm.edu

Kevin Hinrichs ('03) and **Victoria Claus** ('02) were married in August 2009. They are moving to Anchorage, Alaska in October. Kevin will continue working as a software developer for Houston-based PAS, Inc., while Victoria will be joining the FBI as a forensic accountant. lightning44@hotmail.com, victoriaclaus@yahoo.com

Ashley Hallene ('04, Biology) graduated from the University of Houston Law Center this past December, passed her February bar exam, and has now set up a practice of her own.

ahallene@gmail.com

Christian Schmidt ('04, English) married Kristin Leigh Grassel on August 22 in Bethesda, Maryland.

christ1021@aol.com

Douglas Shadle ('04, Music) graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May with a Ph.D. in musicology. He married Karen Wicke, also a musicologist, on January 5, 2008, and their son, Avery, was born on February 26, 2009. They relocated to Louisville, Kentucky in July to pursue academic and church-related music careers. dshadle@email.unc.edu

alumni news

Ian MacIntyre ('05, Interdisciplinary Studies) and his wife, Brittnee, welcomed their first son on July 7. Ian is currently teaching middle school science in Fort Bend ISD.

imacintyre@gmail.com

Vikram Dasa-Ra ('05, Computer Science) started the MBA program at Rice this fall.

vikram.dasarao@gmail.com

Sepideh S. Shirali ('05, Biology) recently graduated from the DDS program at The University of Texas-Houston Dental Branch.

sepidehshirali@hotmail.com

Betsy Uschkrat ('05, Music) and her husband of nearly three years, Tyler Smith, are Assistant Professors of Voice in the Music School of Loyola University in New Orleans. Both perform throughout the United States for Regional Opera Theatres and Choral Societies. This summer Ms. Uschkrat played Marian in *The Music Man* for Tulane Summer Lyric.

betsyuschkrat@yahoo.com

Eric Terrell ('06, Mechanical Engineering) was married to Stephanie Lynn Barton from West Monroe, Louisiana, on May 15. eric.terrell@gmail.com

Daryl Banner ('07, Theater and Psychology) has pursued a career as a composer, playwright, and novelist and recently had two books published: *Love and Other Bad Ideas: A Collection of Seven Short Plays*, and *Psychology of Want*, a novel that grew out of his experience

at The Honors College. This novel was promoted through book-signings over the summer at local bookstores. His music can be found on MySpace and either of his books at amazon.com.

darylbanner@yahoo.com

Charles R. Thompson II ('07, Business) recently joined Accenture's Trading Operations Management Consulting Practice from Citigroup's Commodity Trading business.

c.r.thompson@sbcglobal.net

Send your alumni notes to Libby Ingrassia at lningrassia@uh.edu.

Faculty News

Helen Valier and **Courtney Queen**, from the College of Technology, were awarded Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) funding for a course they will team-teach in the spring entitled "The University of Houston and Community Medicine in Harris County." This interdisciplinary class will engage students by exploring past and present links between UH and Texas medicine. Students can choose from a number of research projects, both historical and

contemporary. Historical projects will make use of the resources of partner institution archives, particularly the McGovern Historical Collection, as well as oral testimony from eyewitness participants. More contemporary projects will work with partners at the UH School of Optometry and the UH Victoria Nursing School to understand the ways in which UH promotes, practices, and engages with local community medicine, in the past, present, and future.

Kimberly Meyer received a \$7,500 Houston Arts Alliance Individual Artist Grant to fund a summer pilgrimage through France, Spain, and Germany, where she retraced the route of a Dominican friar's 1483 pilgrimage from Germany to Mount Sinai. She plans to present a reading of her work in December to the Honors community. Kimberly is also working with **John Harvey** on developing a panel discussion on travel writing after the reading, and possibly coordinating a workshop for students.

Since receiving a \$25,000 FDIP grant in 2009, **Richard Armstrong** has been at the forefront of transitioning The Human Situation Sequence toward a whole new kind of web-centered organization. Richard is now pushing further with

faculty news

plans for “Writing Studios” (workshops and one-on-one tutorial sessions designed to hone students’ writing skills) to serve as supplementary tutors for Human Situation students. The Omega profblog, launched last year to keep students focused on the big picture of the course, was well received and is featured again this fall.

Richard is also collaborating with **John Harvey** on *Dionysia 2011* (see page 1 for more info). John, now the director of the Center for Creative Work, is working full-time at Honors on developing this program. He is also writing a new play, *Under the Big, Dark Sky*, which will premier in Houston with Mildred’s Umbrella Theater Company in April 2011. **Trish Rigdon**, the director of the production, is a faculty member at the School of Theater and Dance at UH.

The *Phronesis* Program in Ethics and Politics, directed by **Sue Collins**, continues to thrive, having won several recent grants to support its students and activities. With encouragement from **Dean Bill Monroe**, recently promoted associate professor **Jeremy Bailey** secured support from the Jack Miller Center and The Veritas Fund, each of which has donated \$15,000 to support a new *Phronesis* Junior Fellows program,

which is supplemented by a \$10,000 grant from the Koch Foundation. The Junior Fellows program will provide annual stipends for selected *Phronesis* students while also funding visiting scholars, student colloquia, and program development.

Rob Zaretsky is working with Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena on a great books seminar. Rob has joined **Brian Johnston**, an 11th grade English teacher at Sam Rayburn and Rob’s brother-in-law, in leading a group of students through Homer’s *Iliad*. Rob also continues to publish locally, nationally, and internationally. You may have noticed his series of op-eds in *The Houston Chronicle*, but he is also co-authoring two books due out in the next two years, while his recent book on Albert Camus has already been translated into French and Chinese for international publication.

Stuart Long received the Esther Farfel Award in May 2010, the highest faculty honor given by the University (see page 6 for more info). Stuart was **President Renu Khator**’s choice for the position of interim vice chancellor/vice president for research and technology transfer, a position he assumed in July. He continues to serve as the associate dean of undergraduate research and The Honors

College, and also continues to work in his home department, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Busy guy...

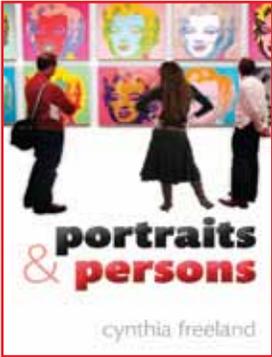


Photo by Thomas Shea

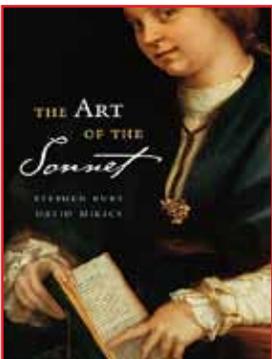
After receiving the Distinguished Service Award at last spring’s year-end Honors Graduation Banquet, **Orson Cook** nears completion of his latest book, due out in late fall, on the Harlem Renaissance in the West; Honors student **Erica Fauser** is serving as his research assistant for this project. Orson is teaching a new Honors course this fall, “The United States: 1900-1929.” And in collaboration with undergraduates Erica Fauser, **Ruchira Podali**, and recent graduate **Blair Ault**, he will present a talk on “Race, Class, and Gender: Varieties of Leadership in Early Twentieth Century Houston” at the East Texas Historical Association conference this month.

Over the summer, **Cynthia Freeland** gave a paper at Kent University in Canterbury and spoke at the Tate Modern Museum’s conference “Agency and Automatism.” While in England, she was also busy promoting her new book, *Portraits and Persons*, giving a book talk and signing in Oxford at Blackwell’s bookshop. She also recorded an episode of the podcast “Philosophy Bites,” available on iTunes and at philosophybites.com. Cynthia spoke in

Roanoke, Virginia, at the Society for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Images annual conference. She stepped down as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences on July 1st and has since returned to her role as chair of the Philosophy Department.



David Mikics, who often teaches lyric poetry in The Human Situation and other Honors English courses, released the *Art of the Sonnet* (Harvard, 2010) with **Stephen Burt** to excellent reviews.



Human Situation lecturer **Robert Cr-emins** has a new short story, “The Unimpeachable Fr. Pollen,” published this summer by *The Dublin Review*, while Honors German instructor **David Brenner** recently published “German-Jewish Performativity: From Judith

faculty news

Butler to Maxim Biller” in *Jewish Longing and Belonging in Modern European Consumer Culture*.

Staff News

Honors welcomes **Laurie Cedilnik** as the Coordinator of Special Events and Alumni Relations for The Honors College and **Hugo Pachas-Luna** as the IT analyst for the College. Recent graduates **Blair Ault** ('10, History) and **Andrew Thomas** ('10, English) are also working in Honors this year as service year interns. The focus of Andrew’s internship will be student development and leadership, while Blair’s internship will focus on developing the multimedia facets of the College.

We also say goodbye and wish our best to **Edith Dugas** and **David Brenner**. Edith is now the Director of Development at St. Anne Catholic School in Tomball, Texas. David has stepped down as Director of the Houston Teachers Institute but plans to continue teaching German at UH and working with Honors. **Shannon Parrish** has assumed a new position as Senior Director of Development, now representing the University at-large, but fortunately will continue working with Honors and with **Dean Bill Monroe** on special projects.

Congratulations to **Christine LeVeaux-Haley**, assistant dean for academic programs and political science professor at The Honors College, on the new addition to her family. Christine welcomed **Ava Corin Haley** on February 12th.



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JESSE RAINBOW



Honors College alumnus **Jesse Rainbow** joins the ranks of literary luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horatio Alger, and John Updike in being awarded Harvard's Bowdoin Prize. The award, which has been given since the 18th century

and carries a \$10,000 prize, honors the best undergraduate and graduate essays and is one of the highest academic awards given by Harvard University.

Rainbow ('99, History) is now a 3rd-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His essay, entitled "The Loss and Invention of Scripture: Breaking and the Making of God's Word," describes "the early histories of sacred texts in

several religious traditions, and how many such books underwent a process of textual loss and restoration on their way to becoming 'scripture.'" Rainbow says, "The example I often give is the biblical story of the stone tablets, which Moses smashed and then recreated."

Rainbow says that everything he has written since 1995 has been influenced by the idea—learned in The Honors College—that "reading and writing are not things one does best in the splendid isolation of a library carrel or study." Human Situation taught him "not only that books talk to each other...but also that the best readers are the ones whose reading is supported by a community of other readers." Thanks to the community provided by The Honors College, Rainbow is now able "to contribute with my own voice to the conversation that I first overheard as a student in Human Situation."