

THE DIALOGUE



Fall 2020 - Spring 2021



SPOTLIGHTING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF IN HONORS!

-GO FURTHER WITH US-



WE ARE HONORS!





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Photo of Fall 2020 Honors Mask & T-Shirt Giveaway provided by Bethany Leander

Restart 2020 With Honors!

The "new normal" education that Sam Houston State University had to adjust to was wholly unpredictable. Every department, college, class, and office at SHSU was unexpectedly thrust online. In one week, everything changed.

Like our students, we at the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College had much to learn at the start of the change. The abrupt reliance on telecommunication technology like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Collaborate, GroupMe, and other remote connection to stay in touch with Honors students, faculty, and staff was overwhelming.

Nevertheless, we persevered to the best of our ability to finish out the hectic Spring 2020 semester strong.

students where they are.

On campus, with the safety of the entire university in mind, we plan on hosting hybrid events. In-person Honors events will continue to adhere to the necessary CDC guidelines by requiring face masks and social distancing.

Having a community that is ready and willing to keep each other safe is how we pulled off safe, in-person Honors events like our monthly Merch Giveaways and continued the 9/11 Remembrance Project tradition hosted by our Honors Ambassadors despite the odds.

Overcoming this public health crisis requires that we all do our part. Mask up, wash your hands, and keep social distancing.

"How much everything changed is still a lot to process. The challenges of the time are great but, we're certain we'll come out stronger together."

With the start of the Fall 2020 term, the Honors College is determined to meet the needs of our Honors students in any way we can.

We have grown more confident in our ability to keep students engaged online and safely on campus.

Online, across a variety of our official social media platforms, we have revamped the design of our communications and events to help keep our students updated on and involved in all things Honors.

From posting Wisdom Wednesday illustrated quotes from our Honors Deans over the Summer online to converting our Wake Up with Honors event to a photo filter Snapchat bash, Honors is set on meeting

We can do this! ✦



Alumni Spotlight Q&A

Dr. Jadrian Wooten, PhD(2009)

Dr. Jadrian Wooten graduated from SHSU in 2009 with a B.A. in Economics and Management with a minor in Entrepreneurship and earned his MBA with an emphasis in Economics and Management in 2010. He went on to earn his PhD from Washington State University (2014) and become an award-winning educator at Penn State University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economic. ✦

Q: Dr. Wooten, you recently donated \$500 to the Honors College at SHSU. You are an Alumnus of both SHSU and the Honors College. What motivated you to donate such a generous amount to Honors?

When I was accepted to SHSU, the Honors College was the only scholarship Sam offered me. I would eventually earn scholarships through the COBA, but those were really the only departments that offered anything. I applied for university and alumni scholarships, but I was never awarded those. I know how important that scholarship was for my parents, so I make sure that most of my donations to SHSU are directed at either the Honors College or the Economics Department. ✦

Q: Can you take us back to your undergraduate years as a member of the Honors College? Can you comment on how Honors impacted your time at SHSU?

The Honors experience was a pivotal part of my entire undergraduate career. I lived in the Honors dorm, with the same roommate, all four years I was on campus. My closest friends from Sam were all in the Honors Program with me, and we did everything together, from intramural sports to carpooling to cultural outings together. When I look back on my fondest memories as an undergrad, they almost always include some aspect of the Honors College: friends from the program, living in Spivey, or the Let's Talk Dinner. ✦

Q: Even though the Honors College is meant for undergraduates, can you comment on how the College impacted your graduate studies at SHSU?

Honors prepared me for seminar-style classes I would take in graduate school. I had never really taken other classes that had a large discussion component or that were taught by multiple faculty. By the time I started graduate school (both my MBA at Sam and my PhD at Washington State), the classes included a lot of discussion and often multiple professors. I felt comfortable with that style because of the honors seminars. ✦

Q: You are currently an award-winning researcher and Associate Professor at Penn State. Can you tell us a little bit about your research interests?

Most of my current work is economics pedagogy, which focuses on developing resources for educators to teach economics. These resources are primarily targeted at undergrad and high school courses. I was taught by some amazing faculty in the Economics department. My classes are significantly larger than they were at SHSU (the largest has 720!), but I try to teach them the same way I learned at Sam. It had such a positive impact on my life that I want to bring a bit of that to my students at Penn State. My secondary line of research focuses on sports economics. My dissertation was on the economics of Major League Soccer, and a lot of that had to do with the Houston Dynamo relocation while I was at Sam. My friends and I would go to a few games each year and that's what sparked my interest. I don't publish as much in sports economics because most of my time is spent on the pedagogy work. ✦

Read more from Dr. Wooten at www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/alumni/spotlight



Q: You are well known for your work on the integration of media into the economic curriculum. Are you working on anything of note that you'd like to share?

I actually have a book that will be published this summer (June 2021) that teaches the principles of economics through the lens of *Parks and Rec*. It references scenes from the show to illustrate various economic concepts. I use a lot of pop-culture videos in my classes when I teach, and a publisher reached out about publishing that part of my work. Most of the work I'm actively involved in right now is focused on how to teach with other pop-culture shows like *Moneyball*, *Superstore*, or K-Pop music. I feel very fortunate that my job lets me watch a lot of TV shows and it's considered research. ✦

Q: Do you have any advice to offer current Honors undergraduates? Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

Get involved in every single possible thing you have time to do. I absolutely loved the smaller events like Pizza with a Prof or invited speakers. I loved getting to work on the Research Symposium or coordinating events with the Honors Council. It's really easy to skip smaller events because there are other things to do, but those were some of the best things I did when I was an undergrad. ✦

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College

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9/11 Remembrance Project



Photo of the 2,977 American flags planted for 9/11 Remembrance Project provided by Bethany Leander

A Tradition Continued, Despite The Odds

Despite the odds, students of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, Honors Ambassadors, and Terry Scholars helped complete a community service project tradition on campus in honor of those lost during the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001.

In areas around the Sam Houston State University clock tower and in front of the Bobby K. Marks Administration Building our students helped plant 2,977 American flags on Thursday, Sept. 10, to commemorate the attacks that occurred nineteen years ago.

Considering the challenges of the time because of the Covid-19 pandemic, student volunteers were initially concerned that they were not going to be able to continue this tradition. Thankfully, they endured!

Determined to continue this tradition, Honors looked at what we would have to adjust in our schedules and in our plans to ensure we not only planted the 2,977 American flags, but

also adhere to Covid-19 CDC safety guidelines.

Project founder and former Honors College Ambassador President Kayla McCarns, who planned and organized the project in its entirety, reached out and expressed her glee for the continuation of the event.

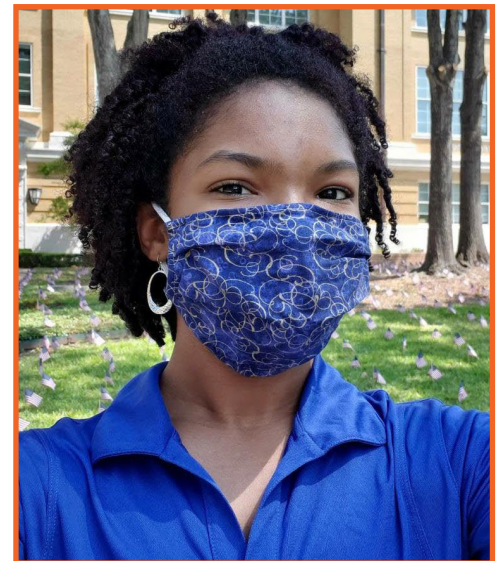
“I’m so glad you all continued this project! Thank you.”

“I’m so glad you all continued this project! Thank you.” McCarns said. We were happy to keep it going.

To keep our students engaged, healthy, safe, and on track to earn their Honors event engagement points, we invited everyone to visit the clock tower, take a photo or selfie near the event, share it, and tag us on social media.

We received dozens of notifications and emails from dedicated Honors students like Gabrielle Butler.

We were pleased to learn that



Gabrielle Butler visits 9/11 Remembrance Project. Photo provided by Gabrielle Butler.

Gabrielle was among our student volunteers the day before. Honors is determined to keep this project going well into the future. With students like Gabrielle in our ranks, we are certain we can keep this tradition going! ✦

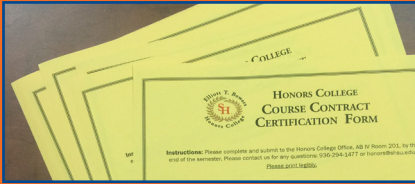


FALL 2020 Honors Updates



210 Incoming Students

A total of over 200 students were accepted for the Fall 2020 semester. Welcome to the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College!



323 Contracts Completed

Despite the limited nature of face-to-face contact with professors, over 300 students completed at least one Honors Course Contract to earn Honors credit!

SPRING 2021 Honors Updates



87 Honors Graduates

May 11: Our Spring 2021 Bowers Medallion Ceremony was held virtually to recognize our graduates adaptability and perseverance during COVID-19. Summer 2021 graduates included.



Awarded Emergency Scholarships
During the Spring 2021 semester, Honors awarded \$40,750 in total to students in need who applied to receive the Emergency Scholarship.

REMIXING THE EVENTS CALENDAR

From ProfSPEAK! to Pizza with a Prof!



Students at Cultural Outing. Photo provided by Cecilia Hendrickson.

The strength of the Honors Community at SHSU relies on the bounding broad intellectual, academic, cultural, and social stimulation and engagement of our students year to year.

The Honors College mission is to facilitate the personal and professional growth of our students.

One of the most important ways in which we fulfilled that mission, is through our traditionally hosted in-person events.

The Covid-19 pandemic, as it did to everything, everywhere, turned our traditional calendar on its head.



*Photo Provided by Dr. Maria Holmes.
Honors hosted monthly Mask & T-Shirt Giveaways this 2020-2021 school year.*

Pandemic looming and steered by CDC guidelines, The Honors Team had to strike a balance between the critical safety and prized involvement of our students and overall Honors Community.

We are proud to say, we at Honors struck that balance!

Our Honors Ambassadors, HSAC officers, Faculty, and Staff made every effort to adapt our term calendars, follow the guidelines, effectively accommodate hybrid events, digitize our outreach to stay in contact with our students, rally the Honors Community, and keep everyone on campus safe.

We could not have done it without an outstanding team and body of such willing and caring students. Eat 'Em Up Kats! ✦

Lorenzo Baeza, 2019, BS, in Biological Sciences. Lorenzo is attending The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, TX and pursuing his Doctor of Medicine degree.

Mercia Bakouetila, 2017, BS, in Health Sciences. In 2020 Mercia also received her PH.D. in Physical Therapy. She is an advocate for Health Literacy, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Kristyn Couvillion, 2017, BS, in Criminal Justice, Minor in Legal Studies. She is pursuing a law degree at the Paul M. Herbert Law Center, LSU, where she is Junior Associate on Volume 80 of the Louisiana Law Review. She is also a Criminal Law Academic Tutor.

Christina Davis, 2018, BS, in Psychology. She is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Hubbard ISD.

Reneshia Gilder, 2020, BA, in Mass Communication, Minor in Music. She is seeking her master's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Brianna Hickman, 2020, BBA, Human Resources Management and Services. She recently joined Amazon as a Senior Human Resources Assistant in Bakersfield, California.

**WANT TO BE FEATURED
IN OUR ALUMNI NOTES?**

Email your notes to:
honors@shsu.edu

HONORS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Photo provided by Julissa Alvarez

Julissa Alvarez

Senior Julissa Alvarez is not only an Honors student, but is also an Honors Ambassador, Orange Key member, LAE member, URS Co-Chair, and Resident Advisor passionate about getting out there and giving back to the community.

Driven to attend SHSU for its distinguished Criminal Justice program, Julissa cites her passion for service and Honors College membership as her motivations to get and stay engaged on campus. She recalls her difficulty adjusting to both college life and the distance between herself, her home, and her family.

Attending the Honors Welcome Retreat event during her first year helped entice her out of her comfort zone, introduced her to one of her first best-friends, and was even where she was encouraged to apply to become an Honors Ambassador.

Recently accepted as a 2020-2021 Honors Ambassador, Julissa became one of the leaders that she recalls looking up to and desiring to be. She wanted to help other students find their way in the same community that helped and benefited her college experience at Sam.

“Being a part of the Honors College had such a positive impact on my involvement on campus.”

Her advice for students who also want to get involved on campus, “Go for it!”

Being engaged opened so many doors and provided her with one of the best college experiences. Honors is proud to have students like Julissa! ✦

TERRY SCHOLAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Photo provided by Jacqueline Jimenez

Jacqueline Jimenez

Honors student and Terry Scholar, Senior Jacqueline Jimenez not only works as a Chemistry TA, but also has published her academic research.

She cites being a recipient of the Terry Foundation Scholarship as the reason why she can pursue a major she is passionate about.

“The Terry Scholarship has allowed me to be the first person in my entire family to obtain a STEM related degree.”

Inspired by other TAs, through her job as a Chemistry TA, she works to help her students excel in the lab and to be someone they can look to for advice.

For example, she is a stellar role model for students interested in publishing academic research. Her published work is a Calculus II optimization-based project that she completed by working with her COSET Dept. Professor Dr. Trujillo and peers to write a paper titled “AM-GM Any Baby’s BMs.”

The purpose of this project was to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of reusable diapers and to identify a method for quantifying the costs associated with the product.

Jacqueline recommends that students be “knowledgeable of professors who do research in a particular subject that you are passionate about.”

As an upcoming graduate, Jacqueline wants incoming students not to fear stepping outside of their comfort zones or talking to their peers, professors, or TAs when needing help. The doors that could open are limitless. Honors agrees. ✦

HSAC CULTURAL OUTING

Event Highlights



CULTURAL ARTIFACTS PRESENTED

- Antique Shaving Blade, still sharp
- Guyanese Handmade Necklace with delicately jeweled cross
- Jarrito, a small glazed Mexican Mug (Pottery)
- Parasol and Photograph that depicts the New Orleans tradition of Second Line (Parades)
- Wooden Venezuelan decoration made of tiny houses mounted on a plaque, brightly painted
- Silver Chinese coin called a "Fat man Dollar" for the engraved portrait of Yuan Shih Kai.



HONORS STUDENT PICNIC!

While The Fall 2020 semester certainly presented many challenges for the Honors Student Advisory Council and the organization's traditional event calendar, we are pleased to note that planning and holding a social gathering like our Cultural Outing event was not impossible.

Due to COVID-19, social distancing regulations on transportation prevented HSAC from hosting the customary Cultural Outing.

However, this did not mean there was no alternative.

HSAC officers wanted to create an event where students could socialize and learn about different cultures while still following Covid-19 protocols.

The officers put together an outdoor picnic with sandwiches and music. They invited Honors students to each bring something special that represented their culture to share in an after-dinner show-and-tell.

Almost all the RSVP spots were filled and when students arrived, they each were treated to a personal lunch box.

Honors students took turns choosing music to share with the group while enjoying

sandwiches.

Afterwards, during the show-and-tell, everyone learned about one another's cultures and respective traditions, and each student told the story behind the artifact they had brought.

Students who had not brought an item to show shared a story about their family and culture instead.

We are proud to share that our Honors Student Picnic was a cinch! ✦



*Photos taken by Cecilia Hendrickson.
Article written by Cecilia Hendrickson
Edited by Kennedy Mendes.*



URS 2021

Winners

Best Overall Poster:

Ellen Thompson

Honorable Mention Poster:

Rhiannon Champagne

Honorable Mention Poster:

Lance Sebesta

Best Overall Oral Media:

Gwendolyn Squires

Honorable Mention Oral Media:

Clara Lusby

Honorable Mention Oral Media:

Stephanie Villagomez

Graduating Senior Award:

Anubhav Thakur

Lagniappe Award:

Tanny Carmona

Deans' Choice Award:

Kelly Martinez and Kailee Smith

EURECA FAST Award:

Annisa Islas, Cooper Neidecker,

and Bree Maldonado

Ambassadors' Choice Award:

Kismot Kamal



The 14th Annual URS Awards Ceremony was hosted by Dr. Tracy Bilsing. Award announcers featured included Dr. Madhusudan Choudhary, Dr. Hiranya Nath, and the URS Co-Chairs.

14TH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Honors Assistant Dean, Dr. Tracy Bilsing and URS Co-Chairs welcoming audiences to the Virtual 2021 URS. From Left to Right: Olivia Heide, Anubhav Thakur, Dr. Tracy Bilsing, and Julissa Alvarez.

With a year to prepare, the 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was successfully converted into an interactive and engaging virtual experience that went live on April 24, 2021.

This university-wide academic conference has been hosted at the Sam Houston State University Huntsville campus since 2006.

The URS is led by Dr. Tracy Bilsing, Honors College Assistant Dean, and a few select Honors Ambassadors who serve as URS Co-Chairs. This year's URS Co-Chairs were Julissa Alvarez, Olivia Heide, and Anubhav Thakur.

Unlike the 13th Annual URS last year, this year's conference was better prepared to adapt to the challenges and restrictions set due to COVID-19.

This year's conference was effectively streamlined and organized on the official Honors College YouTube Channel. For instance, when attendees logged onto the Honors URS Website, they were greeted by a welcoming and instructive YouTube video that directed them to the virtual 14th Annual URS program on the website.

Audiences and event Moderators alike could easily access each student's

uploaded research presentation by clicking on individual hyperlinks located in the event program.

While digitizing a traditionally in-person conference like the Annual URS was no easy feat, the URS Team is proud of the technical and communicative strides made and the effort they put in to ensure the event successfully took place.

Honors is proud of the determination of the URS Team, the production quality of the virtual conference, and the dedication of the URS student presenters who make it all worth it! ✦



Photo taken by Kismot Kamal of the URS 2021 Award recipients. From Left to Right: Kelly Martinez, Ellen Thompson, Rhiannon Champagne, and Stephanie Villagomez



SPRING 2021 Alumni Notes

Megan Kimes, 2020, BS, in Interdisciplinary Studies, Minor in 4-8 ELAR/SS. She is a 5th grade teacher for reading and social studies at Splendora ISD.

Jennifer Ormond, 2007, BA English, MA History, is pursuing her PH.D. in Higher Education Administration at SHSU. In January 2021, she joined Texas A&M University as the Program Coordinator for the Commercial Banking Program

Vanessa Quintanilla, 2017, BA, Criminal Justice and Corrections. She earned her master's degree in Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2021. She works with the CPS Conservatorship at Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Rubin Sandlin, 2017, BS, Psychology, 2020, M.A. Sociology, is a licensed P&C Insurance Agent in Texas and an Accountant Executive at Goosehead Insurance Agency in Houston, Texas.

Mackenzie Staber, 2017, BA, in Criminal Justice and Police Science. She recently earned her master's degree in International Security at George Mason University. She is a Security Analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia.

Noah Zavala, 2019, BS, in Biomedical Sciences. He is currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Houston College Optometry.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR ALUMNI NOTES?

Email your notes to:
honors@shsu.edu

Meet Our New Faculty In Residence!

Dept. of COSET Professor Dr. Mahdi Safa

Dr. Mahdi Safa is a faculty member in the College of Science and Engineering Technology at Sam Houston State University.

He is presently pursuing research on the design and optimization of supply chain processes, maritime/coastal/port construction, modeling and simulation, energy systems, and the integration of new technologies in mega-projects.

He has more than fifteen years of broad management experience, specializing in planning, budgeting, organizing, and controlling resources, procedures, and protocols.

Dr. Safa has a unique combination of engineering and business development expertise with a Ph.D. and Master's in Construction Management, Industrial Engineering, and Business Administration.

He has received several research and teaching awards and has numerous academic publications.



Photo provided by Dr. Maria Holmes

We're pleased to welcome aboard and introduce our New Faculty in Residence at Piney Woods Honors Residence Hall. We're proud to have someone as qualified as Dr. Mahdi Safa on the team! ✦



Piney Woods Hall is SHSU's newest housing facility. **The Honors Community** resides in the complex on the top floor.

Questions? Learn more about on-campus housing at shsu.edu/reslife or contact honors@shsu.edu.

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College



FALL 2020 Honors Faculty

K. Bell	S. Koether
S. Bouamer	P. Lewis
J. Child	J. Littlejohn
J. Cook	K. McIntyre
M. Demson	Z. Montz
B. Doleshal	A. Murfin
J. Harper	R. Norris
M. Holmes	B. Park
T. Primm	
T. Waggener	
J. Williams	

SPRING 2021 Honors Faculty

H. Adair	J. Hudson
K. Bell	P. Lewis
T. Bilsing	J. Littlejohn
E. Bullock	A. Lynne
A. Crane	J. McCauley
A. Daigle	K. McIntyre
K. Dalton	B. Mitchell-Yellin
J. Elkayam	Z. Montz
S. Halmari	D. Neudorf
M. Henderson	A. Shemak
T. Waggener	
J. Williams	
K. Zinn	



Photo provided by Professor Glasscock

As a professor of Animation at Sam Houston State University's Art Department, Professor Melissa Glasscock has taught 2D Animation, 3D Character Animation, and the exclusively senior Animation Portfolio course for almost 6 years now.

Art Department faculty do not often receive Honors Course Contract Proposal requests from Honors students, so she was surprised to receive two at once.

Those two requests were the first she had ever received. She helped her students develop artistically driven Course Contract

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Professor Melissa Glasscock

projects by first asking them to determine their goals.

Then, she worked with each student to design a project that would help them achieve their goals, both for school and the animation industry. Both contracts were completed in her 2D Animation course during the Spring 2020 term.

Impressively, the abrupt switch

"I love it when students want to create work outside of what we normally do in class."

to remote learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic did not stop her students from meeting with her to fulfill their contracts. In fact, it is with these students that Professor Glasscock is currently producing a blended 2D and 3D animated short.

Professor Glasscock would love to work with more Honors students in the future! Especially in her 2D and 3D Character Animation courses. ✦

COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT Dr. Ashton Mouton

For just over 3 years now, Dr. Ashton Mouton has been an Assistant Professor of Business Communication in the Department of General Business and Finance at Sam Houston State University.

"I knew immediately that I wanted to be involved with the Honors College so I could give back to the program and pay it forward to future students."

In the early years of the Honors College as an Honors undergraduate living in Spivey House, helped by then Honors Dean Dr. Young, Dr. Mouton completed her Honors Thesis. In Honors, she gained a support structure that helped her succeed in her classes, in college, and also revealed a personal love of research.

Citing these positive experiences in Honors, Dr. Mouton knew immediately that she would accept a position on the Honors Council when it was offered to her.

She wants students who have any



Photo provided by Dr. Mouton

interest in research at all to be aware of the ample opportunities available to them in Honors to help build and gain the skills and experience necessary for conducting, writing, and presenting research.

For instance, Dr. Mouton recently presented her interdisciplinary research at the ProfSPEAK! Series hosted by Honors.

Her research revolves around design and structure, usually with emphasis given to how the concept impacts gender equity and women's success. ✦



FALL 2020 Event Highlights



ProfSPEAK! Dean Runyan
COHS Dean, Dr. Rodney Runyan, presented his research “Surveys, Scales, and Latent Constructs” at the first ProfSPEAK! of the Fall 2020 term. Honors was better prepared to host virtual events!



Honors Giveaways

During the Fall 2020 semester, the Honors College hosted monthly Mask & T-Shirt Giveaways. Masks were available to all students while T-Shirts were reserved for newly admitted students.



9/11 Remembrance Project

The dedicated Honors Student Ambassadors, Terry Scholars, and Volunteers posed for a group photo after helping us plant 2,977 U.S. flags, one for each victim, around the Clock Tower.



Honors Holiday Dinner

The SHSU Ambassadors gathered for the annual Honors Holiday Dinner and to celebrate their graduates, Shani Gomez and Julio Valdez.



Photo provided by Michelle Wilson

During the Fall 2020 semester, with the goal of gaining experience and learning in a real-world, professional environment in preparation for her future, Junior Melissa Wilson began looking for meaningful local

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Wilson

internships to apply for.

Toward the end of the semester, one of the applications she sent was to the Center for Law, Engagement, and Politics (LEAP) for acceptance into their “City Fellows” Program.

Michelle was soon called back for

“My advice to peers who are interested in internships is to take advantage of the resources available at SHSU.”

several interviews by the LEAP Center. And ultimately, her application was accepted.

Through the LEAP Center’s “City Fellows” program, Michelle interned with the City of Huntsville Parks & Leisure Department guided by internship coordinator Mike Yawn and the Parks



Photo provided by Michelle Wilson

Manager John Agey.

“The goal of the internship is to gain skills in a work environment, build my resume, and have opportunities for professional networking.”

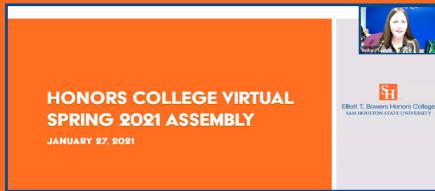
Michelle has observed official department meetings and participated in projects where she learned about the inner workings of a city government and the varying important roles of each level which frame and cultivate a functioning community.

Though she is not entirely sure of her future, Michelle is certain it is somewhere in the legal field as she hopes to attend law school following her graduation.

Michelle highly recommends her mentors and the LEAP Center’s “City Fellows” Internship Program to peers who are also interested in political science.

Honors is proud to have such dedicated and active students like Michelle in our College. ✦

SPRING 2021 Event Highlights



Honors Virtual Assembly

Over 100 students registered for and attended the Honors College's January Spring 2021 Virtual Assembly on Zoom to learn more about what Honors had to offer.



ProfSPEAK! Dr. Mouton

COBA Professor, Dr. Ashton Mouton's March virtual ProfSPEAK! Presentation "Unpacking Design: Blueprints for Sincerity, Agency, and Success" was an interactive experience that drew in over 95 students.



HSAC Ice Cream Social

Before the start of their final meeting, HSAC offered complimentary ice cream to all the Honors students who registered and attended the meeting to participate in the organization's end of year election.

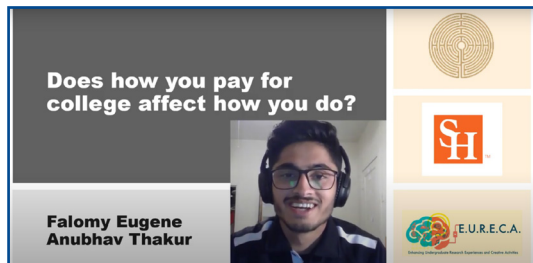
RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT *Anubhav Thakur*

Citing a personal incident during his freshman year at Sam Houston State University, the development of Anubhav's idea for his thesis is rooted in an interesting question. This question would both guide and be the title of his thesis.

"Does source of funding (for higher education) affect how we perform in college and our post-graduation labor market outcomes?"

If it is true that education is a socio-economic ladder for many, Anubhav wants to know how society can ensure that more people have access to meaningful sources of financial funding for higher education to help change lives and overcome racial and gender related injustices.

"Education has been an important part of my life. My childhood experience showed me that education is a socio-economic ladder for many."



Anubhav's URS 2021 presentation. Screenshot by Kennedy Mendes

Anubhav has already presented his research at the 2020 Economics Scholars Program hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas, TX.

Before his graduation, he also presented at both the 13th and 14th annual Undergraduate Research Symposia hosted by the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College with his research partner Falomy Eugene.

"From researching this topic and working on my thesis, I feel more equipped in conducting academic research in the future. I feel comfortable reading academic journals and making sense of it," Anubhav notes.

Anubhav's academic and professional accomplishments are also tied to his life and experiences in the Honors



Photo provided by Honors Ambassadors

College at SHSU.

"Honors has been an integral part of my college experience," said Anubhav.

For him, Honors helped him overcome his fears. For instance, for a time he felt significantly insecure about his speaking capabilities since English was his second language. He did not consider himself a natural leader either. For him, Honors helped change his outlook.

"Being an Honors Student has allowed me to thrive in a community that fosters academic excellence."

As an Highest Honors graduate, Honors Ambassador, and more recently the Honors Ambassador President, he has been an incredibly active member of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College. †



Photo taken by Kismot Kamal at URS Awards



STUDENTS TRAVEL THE COAST AND ACROSS STATE LINES

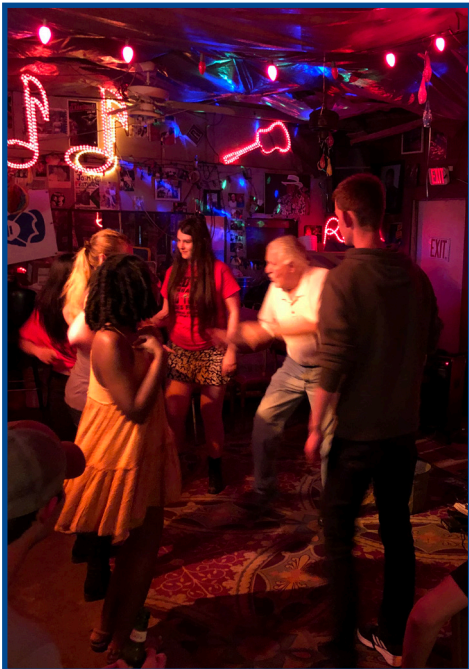


Photo Provided by Dr. Jeffrey Littlejohn. Honors Students, Dr. Jeffrey Littlejohn, and his colleague Kristin Henze at Dexter Parsonage Museum. Taken during field-study seminar From Slavery to Civil Rights.

Honors May-Mester Field Study Seminars

At the end of the Spring 2021 semester in May, Honors students enrolled in one of the three Honors May-Mester Field Study Seminars traveled across state lines and along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Each trip's itinerary and purpose was tailored to the distinct fields of study and departments that Professors Dr. Jeffrey Littlejohn (History), Dr. John Strait (Geography), and Dr. Jeff Wozniak (Biology) represent.

For Dr. Littlejohn's Honors May-Mester course "From Slavery to Civil Rights", students traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to visit sites significant to the Civil Rights Movement.

They were able to visit the Freedom Riders Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

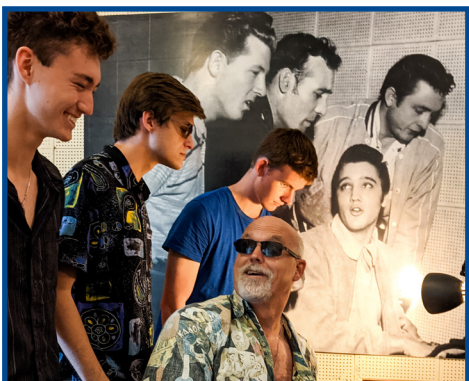
Students enrolled in Dr. Strait's May-Mester Seminar "Race, Blues, & Rock 'N' Roll: The Geography and Soul of the Birthplace of the Blues" had the opportunity to travel to a myriad of sites critical to the birth and formation of blues culture in the U.S.

"One of the reasons I registered

was that I wanted to do something out of state that wasn't only fun, but a great chance to try some soul food." Said Cecilia Hendrickson, one of the students that enrolled in Dr. Strait's seminar.

Finally, during Dr. Wozniak's

"The highlight of our trip was when we visited Red's, one of the last authentic Juke Joints in Mississippi."



Photos provided by Dr. John Strait. Taken during his field-study seminar "Race, Blues, & Rock 'N' Roll: The Geography and Soul of the Birthplace of the Blues". Students visited locations crucial to the birth of "blues culture" in the U.S.

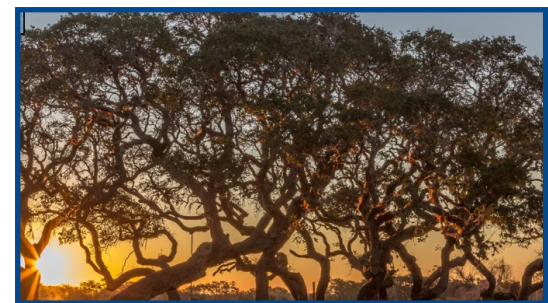


Photo provided by Dr. Jeff Wozniak.

seminar "Exploring the Texas Gulf Coast, students were able to explore the Guadalupe Estuary, study distinctive local aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, the culture of coastal cities, and enjoy beach and kayak outings in their spare time. ✦

Fall 2020 Honors Graduates

Fall 2020 Highest Honors Graduate Theses

Kaylee Campbell: *Fighting the Monster Inside: Conflict Between Monstrosity and Humanity in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*

Taylor Frick: *Ecology, Trading, Poaching, and Hypothesized Localized Governmental Power in Africa*

Shani Gomez: *Key Drivers for Suicides in Construction within the United States*

Jeffrey Joyce: *Psychopathy*

Matthew McGrenera: *God, Self, and Identity: A Comparative Examination of Eastern and Western Philosophy of Religion*

Isabelle Muniz: *How is Romantic Attachment Related to Stress in College Students*

Carolina Nunez: *Giving Voices to Youth in Community Disaster Mitigation: Texas Case Study*

Brittany Prewitt: *Loopholes, Eccentricities, Nuisances, and Other Reckless Adventurers*

Mitchell Williams: *A Survey on the Creation of Definitions of American and Un-American Considering Historical Trends of Cultural and Legal Change*



Graduate Notes

Katelyn Allen is attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration.

Briana Callaway is attending the Thurgood Marshall School Law and pursuing a Juris Doctor degree.

Paige Delgado is attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's of science degree in Criminal Justice.

Joshua Ellison is pursuing a Crime Scene Investigator position at Law Enforcement departments located in Dallas, TX.

Briana Guerrero is planning on attending graduate school to pursue a master's degree in Health Care Administration while working in the medical district in Houston, TX.

Stormy Mitchell is attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX to pursue a master's degree in Health Informatics.

Jordan Newsome is attending Sam Houston State University to pursue a master's degree in Forensic Science.

Gustavo Salazar is working as a Staff I Accountant at the EY Accounting Firm located in Houston, TX while pursuing both a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Public Accountant certification.

Jessica Thielemann is planning on attending a Doctoral Physical Therapy School to pursue a doctor's degree in Physical Therapy.

Genesis Veleros is working as a victim's advocate for a non-profit organization that focuses on representing survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Zachary Willey is employed with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a State Trooper while considering advanced careers within the USDA or Homeland Security.

College of Arts and Media

Kacie Ging
Aliyah Jones
Madison Lindquist

Brittany Prewitt*
Sharon Raissi

College of Business Administration

Katelyn Allen
Kaitlyn Janczak

Briana Padilla
Gustavo Salazar

College of Criminal Justice

Briana Callaway
Syndey Culver
Paige Delgado
John Ellison
Joshua Ellison
Taylor Frick*

Cameryn Kainer
Carolina Nunez*
Evan Millerick
Ashley Saines
Genesis Velero

College of Education

Aline Uwineza

College of Health Sciences

Sarah Fajkus
Griffin Fox
Brianna Guerrero

Stormy Mitchell
Hailey Morgan
Jessica Thielemann

College of Humanities and Social Science

Carissa Baker
Kaylee Campbell*
Brittany Gibson*
Jeffrey Joyce*

Matthew McGrenera*
Isabelle Muniz*
Shyanna Mutz
Mitchell Williams*

Bianca Knight

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Courtney Baldwin
Kimiko Baptist*
Ethan Carter
Peter Colletti

Jordan Newsome
Christian Perez
Shani Gomez*
Sophie Warren*

*Denotes Highest Honors

Congrats Graduates!

Spring 2021 Highest Honors Graduate Theses

Millicent Hendrix: *The Long-Term Effects of Childhood Trauma: How Resilience Factors Mitigate Risk*

Andre Mattox Jr.: *The Emotional Effects of Colors in Photographs*

Teja Roker: *When Thomas Roker Sailed Over the Horizon*

Gwendolyn Squires: *Emotional Broadcasting in Autism*

Anubhav Thakur: *Source of Funding for Higher Education and Academic and Labor Market Outcomes*

**DON'T FORGET TO
KEEP US UPDATED ON
YOUR SUCCESS!**

Email updates to:
honors@shsu.edu



Among our Fall 2020 Honors graduates is Shani Gomez. Shani was an undergraduate student assistant at the Honors College Office for two years. She was also an Honors Ambassador and graduated with Highest Honors after completing her Honors Thesis.

Spring & Summer 2021 Honors Graduates



Elliott T. Bowers Honors College
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Congratulations Graduates!

Graduate Notes

Julissa Cantu-Alvarez is attending a Texas Law Program and hopes to start pursuing her Juris Doctor degree during the Fall 2021 term.

Kelly Akiura hopes to work for the Women's Center, Crisis Hotline, or Victims Advocacy.

Karen Barajas is attending a university in Pennsylvania to obtain her M.A.

Ines Cauquil is pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Washington or Nevada State after she obtains her M.A.

Maria Del Valle plans to work as a professional actuary evaluating the likelihoods of future happenings.

Brianna Ecolango is attending graduate school to earn a M.A. in Forensic Science.

Julia Garcia hopes to attend Johns Hopkins University to obtain an M.A. in Communication and an MBA.

Millicent Hendrix is pursuing a M.A. in Clinical Psychology.

Syasya Ismail plans to find a position in the Data Science field.

Alexis Lopez is attending Sam Houston State University to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice Leadership Management.

Andre Mattox is pursuing a graduate degree in Counseling.

Tori Nunn plans to teach English and a second language along with becoming an international choreographer.

Gwendolyn Squires is applying to M.A. and Ph.D. programs.

Anubhav Thakur plans to graduate school and pursue a Ph.D. in Economics.

Camree Ulbricht is looking for an Elementary School teaching position in Conroe, Texas.

Joana Vaca is returning to Sam Houston State University to earn a master's degree in Criminal Justice or Psychology.

Emily Warren is attending the University of Texas to obtain her MA.

College of Arts and Media

Taylor Gange
Julia Garcia
Allura Guerra
Zahnya Johnson
Elise Mathis

Tori Nunn
Brainne Russell
Victoria Tamez
Kaleigh Van Derostyne

College of Business Administration

Toch Kim
John Ohiani-Jegede
Taylor Swearingen

Hunter Troell
Alexis Villarreal
Lindsay Waldo

College of Criminal Justice

Taylor Applehans
Ronni Cantrell
Julissa Cantu-Alvarez*
Samantha Campos
Valeria Garza
Ruben Garzoria
Fizza Gilani
Jacinda Gutierrez
Avery Hawkins
Millicent Hendrix *
Syasya Ismail *
Akiura Kelly
Bianca Lozano
Alexis Lopez
Makala Loftis

Andrea Morales
Marcela Moreno
Chardonnay Morgan
Madison Niemeyer
Nneka Nnaji
Jesus Rodriguez
Shelby Samples
Cassandra Scarpato
Jasmine Silva
Tyler Stanley
Joana Vaca
Emily Warren
Kennedy Williams
Dejah Washington

College of Education

Emma Berthelsen
Helen Hill
Roshaud Johnson

Daniella Puente
Kaitlynn Toorcana
Camree Ulbricht

College of Health Sciences

Karen Barajas
Sarah Bigham
Bethany Leander*

Mariana Sanchez
Imani Williams

College of Humanities and Social Science

Ellie Bragg
Laura Cravy
Millicent Hendrix *
Cristian Hill
Matthias Litzmann
Andre Mattox*
Shannon Miller
Cynthia Rodriguez

Odalys Romero
Jasmine Silva
Gwendolyn Squires*
Joana Vaca
Dejah Washington
Ilexus Williams
Hannah Willingham
Alfredo Zavala

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Cailee Auck
Jessica Castillo
Ines Cauquil
Samantha Clem
Kayla Clement
Brianna Ecolango
Abisag Flores
Joseph Green III
Dorothea Hudson
Ashley Koenig
Makenzie Kuehn
Joshua Lewis

Aleyah Lyles
Shyla Porter
Teja Roker*
Molly Sarles
Lance Sebesta
Kylie Scofield
Michael Shields
Anubhav Thakur *
Maria Del Valle
Michael Way
Lauren Wood

*Denotes Highest Honors

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College



ELIGIBLE

STUDENTS

INVITED TO

APPLY



Elliott T. Bowers Honors College
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring 2022

11.30.21

Fall 2022

03.31.22



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Eligibility Requirements

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AND



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remaining before
expected graduation date**

Incoming Freshman Students



1270+ SAT

OR



27+ ACT

OR



**Top 10% of
your graduating class**

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THE HONORS COLLEGE



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