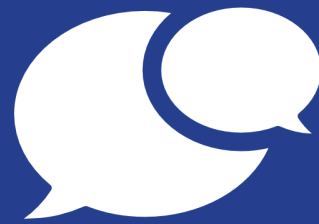
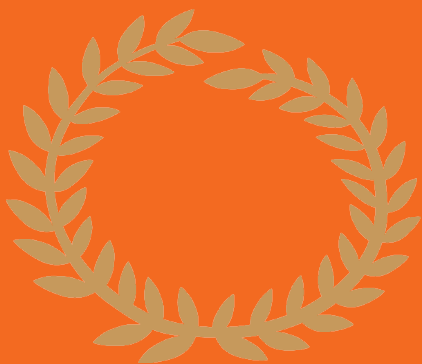


The Dialogue



Vol. XI, Issue I

Fall 2019 - Spring 2020



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Sam Houston State University



A Member of The Texas State University System



Photo Taken by Lucero Nava.

From Office to Zoom: Helping Students Overcome

From how we handle business to how we communicate with family and friends, the effects of Covid-19 will be felt for generations to come.

Campus life and the collegiate experience at Sam Houston State University hasn't been an exception. In one week, everything went online.

Initially, the abrupt reliance on

“Going from the classroom to Zoom, from outside to inside, was a lot to deal with at first.”

telecommunication technology like Zoom, Blackboard collaborate, Skype, and remote connections to stay in touch with students, faculty, and staff was a lot to get used to.

Like our students, we at the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College had a great deal of learning and adapting to do. Know that we understand the challenges of the time and are here to help.

Inspired by recent contributions to the Bearkat Emergency Fund by our University's alumni, the Honors College pooled our resources to provide extra funding exclusively for vulnerable members of our Honors student body.

The closure of retail stores, restaurants, furloughs, and cutbacks in other like businesses have impacted our student's ability to maintain

food, housing, and educational security.

Via the Honors Emergency Fund, 168 of our students had awards added to their accounts to ensure they receive the help they need to overcome the novel difficulties of the time.

We're proud to give back to the students that make Honors the esteemed program that it is today. ✦

Fall 2019

Honors Updates



233 Incoming Students

Over 200 students were accepted for the Fall 2019 semester. Welcome to the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College!

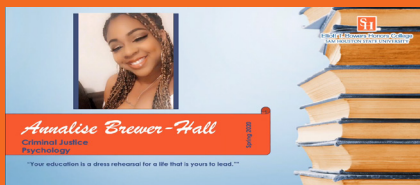


\$200,575 awarded scholarships!

Honors awarded nearly \$16,000 to its students and faculty to cover travel expenses for their sponsored trip to Disney World for the Honors Winter Disney Seminar.

Spring 2020

Honors Updates



95 Honors Graduates

May 9: Our Spring 2020 Bowers Medallion Ceremony was held virtually to recognize our graduates adaptability and perseverance during COVID-19.



385 Contracts Completed Remotely

Despite the lack of face-to-face contact with professors for the last two months of the semester, over 300 students completed at least one contract to earn Honors credit!

Kats Help Kats: Freshman Sells Shirts For Scholarships

At Sam Houston State University, service is who we are and what we do. Our motto, “The measure of a Life is Its Service,” continues to guide our research, teaching, outreach, and public service daily. This message of selfless service resonates with incoming freshman Madeline Dupont. She knows that Bearkats burn a little brighter and her own life motto is to “be the light.”

This summer, Dupont has been a source of light and hope for many during the COVID-19 health crisis. Like most new students, she turned to social media to meet friends and establish meaningful connections before move-in. Through these online relationships, she learned that some of her future classmates were anxious and unsure about their ability to begin classes in the fall. In response, the self-proclaimed t-shirt lover established a fundraiser in which all proceeds would be donated to the Bearkat Emergency Fund.

“I thought selling t-shirts for SHSU students affected by COVID-19 would be the best charity and the closest one to my heart,” Dupont said. “I love t-shirts. I was buying a million of them from Barefoot

“I wanted to try and give my fellow Bearkats a chance to have the amazing experiences I know I’m going to have and the opportunity for a great education.”

and I wanted to create my own. The t-shirt I designed comes in blue comfort colors and has the words “Kats Help Kats” and says Sam Houston State University underneath.” At \$25 a shirt, Dupont has already contributed two gifts for more than \$300 and plans to continue the fundraiser through July 11.

“I thought about all the other kids who might not have the opportunity to start school and it broke my heart,” Dupont said. “I wanted to try and give my fellow Bearkats a chance to have the amazing experiences I know I’m going to have and



Photo provided by Madeline Dupont

Madeline was accepted to the Honors College for the Fall 2020 semester as an incoming freshman. Honors is excited to see all that she will accomplish as a Bearkat.

the opportunity for a great education.”

Dupont will begin her own SHSU journey in the fall as a psychology major and plans to minor in early childhood development.

“I chose Sam Houston State for

my education because my stepdad went here and had the most amazing time and I look up to him. Also, I heard the Greek life is amazing and I would love to be a part of the sisterhood and make lifelong friends, and lastly, I want to apply to the honors program so I can graduate with honors and challenge myself.”

Wherever her dreams may take her, Dupont has a bright future at SHSU. ✦

Story taken from Today@SAM. Written by Hannah Haney. June 15, 2020. ✦

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College



936.294.1477 | Academic Building IV, Suite 201 | honors@shsu.edu

Fall 2019
Alumni Notes

Noemi Cazares, 2019, BS Animal Science with a Concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Noemi is pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M. She is a TVMA Certified Veterinary Assistant and works as a Veterinary Technician at West Alabama Animal Clinic in Houston, Texas.

Andrea Clark, 2017, BS Food Science and Nutrition. Received her MS in Nutrition from Texas Women's University in 2019. She currently works as a Clinical Dietitian for Aramark Healthcare in Kingsville, Texas.

Rachel Falgout, 2016, BS in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is pursuing a Masters Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Emily Eisterhold, 2015, BM Music Education. She is currently the Assistant Choral Director at Conroe High School in Conroe, Texas.

M. J. Ghene, 2015, BS Criminal Justice. M. J. currently works as a Quality Control Field Inspector at JES Construction in Washington, D.C.

Amel Brimo Haek, 2019, BBA Banking and Finance. Amel is pursuing a MBA in Finance at the University of Houston. She currently works as a Financial Analyst at SuperPufft Snacks USA in Perry, Florida.

Laura D. Schumacher, 2012, BFA Musical Theatre. Laura earned her Master's of Non-profit Management (MNM) from the University of Central Florida. She is currently the Coordinator for Alumni and Employee Giving at Seminole State college of Florida in Kissimmee, FL.

Matthew Stepan, 2013, BFA Theatre - Acting/Directing Emphasis. Matthew is pursuing his MFA in Television, Film, and Theatre at California State University, Los Angeles. He currently works as a Freelance Theatrical Director and Actor around the DFW area.

Shealynn Vogan, 2016, BBA Management Information Systems. She currently works as a Marketing Data Analyst for Trendline Interactive in Austin, TX.

Alumni Spotlight Q&A

Eric Semlear, B.A. (1999)

Eric Semlear graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1999 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. After graduation, he went on to work for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for seven years. In 2006, he accepted a job with Gavin de Becker & Associates (GDBA) where he has now been for almost 14 years. He is currently the Director of Case Management at GDBA. †



Q: Mr. Semlear, you recently visited campus as a Real Talk speaker for the College of Criminal Justice. How was it returning to campus almost twenty years after your graduation?

It was just over twenty years since I graduated, and I hadn't been back to campus in some time. Seeing all the growth and construction was really a contrast. Spivey is now a construction site, and most of the streets are one way. It took some navigating, but it was great to see all the interest in the campus and resulting growth. It was also great seeing the Honors office now, and what it's grown into. I had a great time. †

Q: After your presentation for CJ, you visited us over at Honors. You were a member of the Honors Program from 1995 to 1999 and were able to name all the students on the Spivey House t-shirt! Are you still in contact with any of your housemates from then?

My wife (Kelly Richards Semlear) and I met freshman year when we both lived in Spivey, and we got married the summer after we graduated. We had our 20th anniversary last year, and we have three daughters. Kelly has more of a social media presence than I do, but I'm still in touch with several of the other Spivey residents. †

Q: Aside from your Spivey housemates, what was most memorable about the Honors Program?

It was the people, the community, and the relationships that resulted, not just through Spivey, but throughout the program. This was all under Dr. Eglsaer at the time. I had a great relationship with him, and the professors in the Honors classes. That community caught me at the right time, coming out of a large high school without much individuality. For me, it truly felt like the right place at the right time for that next stage in my life. †

Q: Though the Honors Program, now Honors College, has changed since you graduated. Would you recommend it to students?

Absolutely, and change is an understatement. I was able to meet with Dr. Eglsaer and Dr. Bilsing during my recent trip. The Honors College is ten times the size it was when I was at SHSU, and it was still the Honors Program then. The Honors Program is definitely part of what helped me find my voice, and helped me get started in my career. That was a special time and place for me, and I think that is true for many people that come through the program. †

Read more from Mr. Semlear at www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/alumni/spotlight

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College



Spring 2020 Alumni Notes

Sahabia Ahmed, 2014, BBA in Economics. She is currently working at Entergy in Houston, Texas as a Generation Planning and Modeling Analyst.

Mercia Bakouetila, 2017, BS in Health Sciences. She is pursuing her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at TSU. She currently works as a student Physical Therapist at Advanced Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Catie Duhon, 2008, BA in Fine and Studio Arts. She currently works as the Experiences Vice President for International Meeting Managers, Inc. (IMM) in Houston, Texas.

John P. Ewing, 2007, BA in English and Philosophy. Received his MA at Texas A&M (2009) and PhD from Indiana University Bloomington (2017). John currently works as an Associate Instructor at Indiana University Bloomington where he teaches beginning through advanced German language and culture courses.

Leann M. Harrel, 2015, earned her BS in Biology and PhD in Forensic Science in 2019. Currently works as a Forensic Scientist for Signature Science, LLC based in Austin, TX.

Andrew Husband, 2007, English BA and MA (2009). Writer and Editor for the Office of External Relations at MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston, MA.

*Want to be featured
in our Alumni Notes?*

Email your notes to:
honors@shsu.edu

Student Spotlight



Photo provided by Y Luong

Y Luong

After learning about Sam Houston State University's suitable Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management, Junior Honors student Y Luong decided to transfer from Houston Community College and complete her collegiate journey as a Bearkat.

Y is not only a Transfer Student, but also an International Student. As such, the initial transfer from community college to a four-year university was difficult for her.

However, she overcame and her perseverance shines through in her active membership in the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College. She has recently been accepted as a 2020-2021 Honors Ambassador and won the URS Honors Assam Scholarship for Oral Media for research in her department.

Her research began as she contracted

"Honors College has given me numerous thriving chances and motivated me throughout my junior year."

her CAD course during her first semester at SHSU. With Dr. Ulan Dakeev, her mentor professor, Y developed an application that helps people with no prior experience in a physical building locate emergency exits and quickly evacuate in the case of an emergency.

Y joined Honors as a junior with no Honors credits. To succeed, she advises students to not be afraid to shoot their shot, keep trying, and surround themselves with motivated minds.

Honors is delighted to cultivate the growth of perseverant students like Y! ✦

Terry Scholar Student Spotlight

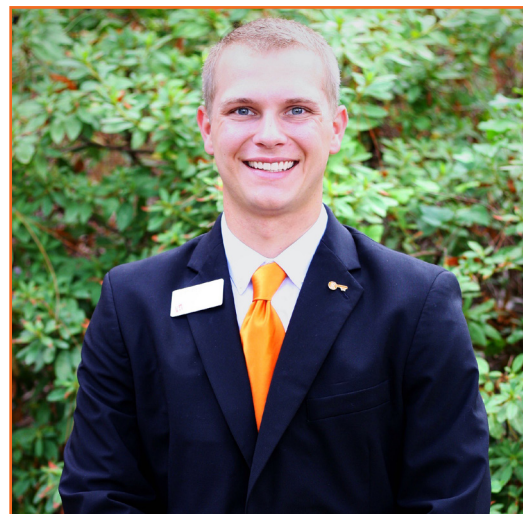


Photo provided by Jason Silvey

Jason Silvey

Senior Jason Silvey is both an Honors student and Terry Scholar passionate about getting out there and getting involved in the community.

Throughout his academic career, Jason has been engaged in numerous extracurricular activities throughout his time here at Sam Houston State University.

Doing his best to make the most of his college experience, he has been active with Rec Sports, in Greek Life, professional organizations related to his major, and more!

Despite Covid-19 interference, Jason

"Being in honors college and the Terry Scholar Foundation has given me a solid foundation on campus that [gave] me with the necessary connections to grow and expand my mark all across campus."

persevered, made the most of his internship with the Texas Department of Public Safety, and rode just over a month with department troopers. In that short time, he was able to expand his web of connections, knowledge, and hone key skills.

From experience, he spiritedly advises new students to discover "...something that you are passionate about!" Freshman year, as he notes, is the opportune year for students to try as many things as possible. In doing so, students can discover who they are, what they do and don't like, and grow better for it.

Go-getters like Mr. Silvey enhance the Honors College experience tenfold and we are proud to be a part of their journey! ✦

Winners

Best Overall Poster:
Kyler Kelley

Honorable Mention Poster:
Stephen Casper

Honorable Mention Poster:
Jamie Washington and Asiah Byers

Best Overall Oral Media:
Samuel Titone

Honorable Mention Oral Media:
Ellie Bragg

Graduating Senior Award:
Victoria Osborne

Graduating Senior Honorable Mention:
Barrie Homer

Graduating Senior Honorable Mention:
Neisha Pander

Honors Assam Scholarship Poster:
Stanlee Brandt

Honors Assam Scholarship Oral-Media:
Y Luong

FAST Award:
Anubhav Thakur

T-Shirt Design Winner:
Frank Gassmann



The 13th Annual URS Awards Ceremony was hosted by Dr. Tracy Bilsing. Award announcers featured included Dr. Kimberly Bell, Dr. Maria Holmes, Dr. Patrick Lewis, Dr. Madhusudan Choudhary, Dr. Hiranya Nath, and the URS Co-Chairs.



Photo taken by Andre Mattox

There were many firsts for the 13th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium which was scheduled to take place on April 18, 2020. 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 Associate Dean, and a few select Honors Ambassadors who serve as URS Co-Chairs. This year's URS Co-Chairs were Julissa Alvarez, Sean Hamilton, and Lucero Nava. Though hosted by the Honors College, the URS is open to all SHSU students and their friends and family.

The 12th Annual URS last year had record-high registration numbers. With this in mind, the URS Team expected an even larger turn-out during the Spring 2020 semester and began preparations almost immediately after the Spring 2019 semester ended.

However, they ran into unexpected challenges including the implementation of a new logo. This update required time spent waiting on the new logo and the redesigning of all marketing materials. Regardless of the extended wait and delayed release of marketing materials, registration numbers were growing rapidly day by day.

In mid-March when SHSU announced their decision to extend spring break by one

week due to coronavirus concerns, the URS Team knew the event they planned to host only a month later was at jeopardy.

The 13th Annual URS was cancelled on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 after many virtual meetings and advice from university officials. Registration was closed soon after with a record-breaking 450 attendees registered and weeks to go before the final registration deadline.

Even though the 13th Annual URS was cancelled, the URS Team and collaborating planners such as Dr. Madhusudan Choudhary and Dr. Hiranya Nath decided that registered presenters should still be allowed to submit for awards.

On Friday, May 8, 2020, the URS Team hosted a virtual awards ceremony via YouTube and awarded over \$3,000 in scholarships! Though the trials faced were unique and challenging, the URS Team persevered and managed to keep as much as possible of the 13th Annual URS available to the public.

Today, the URS Team is preparing to welcome new co-chairs for the 14th Annual URS and has already set a date. The 14th Annual URS will take place on April 21, 2020. Registration and more information will be available online at www.shsu.edu/urs. ✦



NCHC 2019

Highlights



From left to right, Lucero Nava, Sean Hamilton, Lindsey Burcham, Bethany Leander, Dr. Maria Holmes, and Connie Rodriguez.

National Collegiate Honors Council Conference 2019

In early November, dedicated Honors Ambassador Bethany Leander was chosen to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

She was accompanied by Ambassador President Lucero Nava, Ambassador Vice President Sean Hamilton, Ambassador Lindsey Burcham, Deans Dr. Kimberly Bell and Dr. Maria Holmes, and Administrative Coordinator Connie Rodriguez.

At the conference, Bethany and the team learned how other Honors programs across the nation engage their students. They did this through attending keynote speeches, daily workshop sessions, and networking. They also learned how other Honors programs handle advising, overcome trying situations, and inspire students to participate and grow.

In the afternoons following the conferences, all attendees were able to enjoy New Orleans cuisine, learn how to



take the bus, visit the French Quarter, Jackson Square, Cafe du Monde, and more. Despite the rainy weather, Bethany says everyone had a blast!

Some tips provided by Ambassador Leander for attending academic conferences in other cities are to read the conference program beforehand so you can map out your day, take notes during sessions, bring a range of outfits to accommodate varying weather conditions, and finally, have fun and ask questions! ✦

NAMC 2020

Highlights



Photo provided by Gwendolyn Wright

From left to right, Alex Cuellar, Gwendolyn Wright, and Frank Warren

At the National Active Minds Conference, Co-Presidents Alex Cuellar and Gwendolyn Wright were able to hear from and meet key speakers like Frank Warren, the founder of PostSecret.

National Active Minds Conference

Committed Co-Presidents of Active Minds at SHSU Alex Cuellar and Gwendolyn Wright decided to attend the National Active Minds Conference held in Washington, D.C from February 20th-22nd.

There they gained a better understanding of the Active Minds mission, both nationally and locally back on campus. The pair also acquired valuable knowledge regarding their respective interests and studies.

Gwendolyn sought out sessions that helped cultivate her comprehension of programming while Alex attended those that discussed topics related to outreach

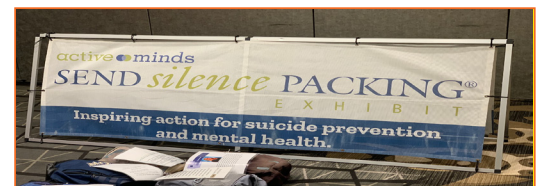


Photo provided by Alex Cuellar

that surrounds mental illness.

For Co-President Gwendolyn, she learned more than what she expected. She came to understand the importance of campus-wide inclusion, the spread of resources, and what approaches would work best for Sam Houston State University and the Active Minds chapter

“I learned quite a bit...I did try to attend sessions specifically targeting outreach and helping underserved groups in the mental health field.”

and assisting underrepresented groups in the Mental Health sphere.

Sessions like the one inspired by the SEND *silence* PACKING exhibit provided these students with invaluable information and resources dedicated to inspiring action for suicide prevention and end the silence

on campus regarding these issues.

These two dutiful students have been active in the chapter since the very beginning of their journeys at SHSU. They strongly encourage other students to get involved and know that, no matter what, there is a place for them on campus! ✦



Faculty Spotlight

Council Spotlight

Fall 2019

Honors Faculty

K. Bell	S. Koether
S. Bouamer	P. Lewis
J. Child	J. Littlejohn
J. Clark	J. McCanley
J. Cook	A. Mouton
L. Courtney	R. Norris
B. Doleshal	S. Oden
L. French	T. Primm
J. Harper	G. Sanford
M. Holmes	D. Shorter
Y. Tomes	
J. Williams	
J. Wozniak	



College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building

Professor Jessica Lee

From research methods to psychopharmacology, Professor Jessica Lee has taught a little of everything related to psychology at Sam Houston State University with the Department of Psychology and Philosophy for over a decade now.

Professor Lee agreed to complete a total of eleven Honors Course Contracts with our students during the Fall 2019 semester and eight during the Spring 2020 semester. She states that she does not like “saying no to students who are trying to do better, learn more, and are willing to put forth effort above what is required of them.”

Professor Lee is an outstanding member of our Honors community as are the other professors who work diligently with our students to ensure their success and heighten their collegiate experience.

“It just seems like something we should all be doing.”

Professor Lee’s response is humbling in that helping students learn is what she’s here for and that “it just seems like something we should all be doing.” The Honors College is proud to have dutiful educators like Professor Lee who are ready and willing to push our students. ✦



Photo provided by Dr. Park.

Dr. Benjamin Park

Sam Houston State University welcomed Dr. Benjamin Park to its History Department during the fall semester of 2016.

He earned his PHD from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He often teaches freshman survey courses, upper-division courses on American religious history, and even seminars on the American Revolution.

Dr. Park expressed interest in the Honors College soon after arriving at SHSU and offered to help out in any way possible. As such, he was invited to join the Honors Council his first year and ever since has been working with our students to further their education and experience in the program.

“...one of the best features of the Honors Program is the community it builds among students.”

According to Dr. Park, “...one of the best features of the Honors program is the community it builds among students.”

He believes that education is a collaborative affair and would like to remind students that all professors, like himself, “are here because we like to work with you.” Honors is grateful to have you Dr. Park! ✦

Spring 2020

Honors Faculty

K. Bell	J. Littlejohn
T. Bilsing	A. Lynne
J. Clark	J. McCanley
K. Dalton	A. Mouton
B. Doleshal	D. Neudorf
P. Eaton	E. O’Neal
M. Henderson	G. Sanford
K. Henze	T. Waggener
J. Hudson	J. Williams
B. Kaminska	J. Wozniak
P. Lewis	P. Zelbst



Cultural Outing Fall 2019

Student Insight

"I was amazed by the many things available at Moody Gardens! From lunch at Shark Shack, to spending time in the rainforest pyramid, to the ice sculpture exhibit, everything was wonderful and perfect before the stress of finals week."

- Lucero Nava

Cultural Outing Highlights



HSAC 2019-2020 Officers

Left to Right: President Sean Hamilton, Social Media Chair Emily Warren, Historian Rebecca Clark, Event Coordinator Nicholas Polk, and Secretary Amanda Rincon-Morales.

Not Pictured: Vice President Kaelin Powell and Community Service Chair Kalyann Stigger.

Cultural Outing: Moody Gardens



A rainforest pyramid, rope courses, numerous plants and animals of countless variety, and more awaited a group of Honors students who attended our Fall 2019 Cultural Outing to Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

On November 23, 2019, the Honors Student Advisory Council took a group of students to Moody Gardens; an attraction that today stands as one of the premier educational/leisure facilities in Southwest Texas.

HSAC Event Coordinator Nicholas Polk notes that the council chose Moody Gardens because they wanted the destination to not only be entertaining, but also provide interesting learning opportunities for students. Nicholas has visited Galveston before, but had only experienced the city's beach and was excited to visit Moody Gardens itself.

Students were able to explore the huge rainforest pyramid that houses over 1,700 exotic plant and animal species from tropical Africa, the Americas, and the rainforests of Asia. The sections within each pyramid were sometimes divided by different countries among these regions to help students pinpoint the origins of the flora and fauna respectively. Nicholas says, "I enjoyed seeing the different animals that Moody Gardens had."

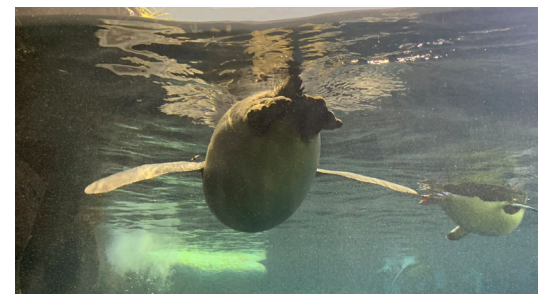
Attending this outing allowed Honors students to learn together and even meet different people. Events and experiences like these are what makes the Elliot T. Bowers Honors College an exciting aspect of Sam Houston State University.

Nicholas identifies the bi-annual cultural outings as just one of the ways that

HSAC serves the Honors community. He states that the goal of HSAC is to make the Honors College a welcoming community for all students.

Each cultural outing is carefully planned by HSAC and Honors Staff to offer Honors students a greatly discounted ticket price that includes transportation, a meal, and entry to the selected outing location.

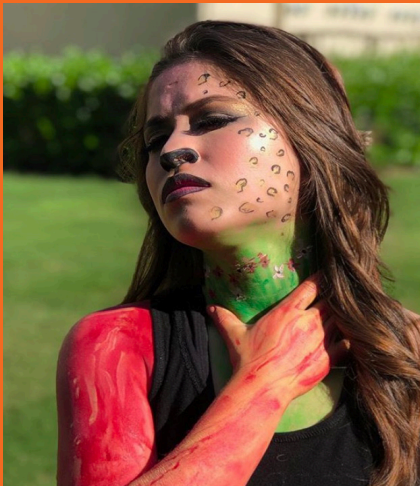
Though HSAC was unfortunately unable to host their Spring 2020 Cultural Outing as planned, they are excited and ready for future outings and what they hold! †



Photos provided by Lucero Nava

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College





Internship Spotlight: Sean Hamilton

The Summer of 2019 was fulfilling for Honors student Sean Hamilton who spent his summer honing the necessary technical and physical skills for his future career in accounting.

As an accounting student, the “Meet the Firms” event held at Sam Houston State University was very important to Sean. At this event, students get to meet potential employers for internships and full-time positions. Unfortunately, Sean did not find an internship like he hoped.

This did not stop Sean’s determination to gain real-life experience and insight into his field. He continued to apply at various locations while being a full-time student at SHSU.

His perseverance landed him an internship with Peterbilt Motors Company, a subsidiary of PACCAR Inc., in Summer 2019. There he broadened his skills in Microsoft Office suite, SAP software, and other software that he will use throughout his career.

After his experience at Peterbilt

Motors, Sean says he “would definitely recommend an internship for any student that is able to find one.”

In fact, Sean plans to participate in another internship this upcoming Summer. He will be working as an intern with DOW Chemical, an American multinational chemical corporation in Midland, Michigan.

Sean intends to continue his career with a full-time position at DOW chemical once the internship program ends. He is also returning to school after earning his Bachelors at SHSU to earn his Masters of Business Administration at the University of North Texas during the Fall 2020 semester.

Honors is proud to have been a part of Sean’s journey and thankful for his service to the Honors College as a Student Assistant, President of the Honors Student Advisory Council and Vice President of the Honors Ambassadors.

Best of luck to Mr. Hamilton! ✦

Research Spotlight: Diana Alcaraz

Citing a deep rooted passion for both the arts and nature, Diana knew she wanted to incorporate the pair in her Honors Thesis project. During the time she spent brainstorming and preparing, the Amazon Rainforest was suffering from devastating fires that damaged the vital landscape.

Diana’s personal concerns and feelings of powerlessness regarding the devastation of the Amazon inspired

“I strongly believe that we are just visitors on this Earth, and we need to learn to respect our world and everything around it.”

her decision to bring awareness to the Rainforest and educate both herself and her peers on nature overall.

She wanted to explore more artistic ways of expressing her thoughts and presenting her thesis alongside her traditional research paper. Therefore, after

speaking with Dean Bell on various occasions, Diana decided to incorporate dancing into her presentation. She made significant discoveries from her research. Phenomenal facts about the Amazon Rainforest aside, Diana learned to believe in her work.

Graduating with Highest Honors was her original goal, but the learning aspect of her research became the best part of her project overall.

Throughout her thesis, she had the privilege of working with Dr. Bucheli, a professor in Sam Houston State Universities Biological Sciences Department. Diana expressed her eternal gratitude for her advice and friendship throughout the project.

Finally, Diana adds that being an Honors student for four years pays off in the end. She believes that it is important to set goals and persist until they are achieved.

Having dedicated advocates and influencers like Diana in its ranks is the breath of Honors. ✦



Fall 2019

Highest Honors Graduate Theses

Kristen Gustafson: *Religious Participation*

Kaylee Sarton: *From Prompter to Stage*

Congrats Graduates!

Don't forget to keep us updated on your success!

Email updates to:
honors@shsu.edu



Among our Fall 2019 Honors graduates is Lindsey Burcham. Lindsey was an undergraduate student assistant at the Honors College Office for a year and a half. She was also an award winner at the 11th Annual URS where she was awarded the FAST Grant Award by the SHSU EURECA Center.



Photo taken by Brian Blalock
College of Arts and Media

Kaylee Sarton*

College of Buisness Administration

Amel Brimo Haek
Chloe Henze
Brooklyn Hernandez
Josee Jacobellis
Nicholas Olney

College of Criminal Justice

Eli Addams
Crystal Camacho Ramos
Tametra Cook
Breanna Hargrove
Logan Perry
Nathan Roesler
Kathryn Smith
Christian Straus

College of Education

Ashley Kramer
Jennifer Sosa

College of Health Sciences

Denise Guzman
Allison Harsy
Brandon Whitmore

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Kristen Gustafson*
Ann Marie Ramas

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Lindsey Burcham
Madeliene Charlton
Jocelynn Robinson
Aria Zaruba

*Denotes Highest Honors

Graduate Notes

Stephanie Baker will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Biology.

Emily Bowman will be attending the University of Houston-Victoria and pursuing a master's degree in Forensic Psychology.

Ibeth Caceres will be attending Baylor College of Medicine and pursuing a medical degree.

Destiny Caldwell will be attending Florida State University and pursuing a master's degree in Higher Education.

Noemi Cazares will be attending Texas A&M's University of Veterinary Medicine.

Kestra Derise will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Sara Diehl will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Logan Haley will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Peiting Liu will be working as an associate for BKD CPA's & Advisors in Houston, Texas.

Jacinda Maxwell will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Education.

Kayla McCarns will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Homeland Security Studies.

Brittiany Minor will be attending University of Houston at Clearlake and pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Psychology.

Connor Rollings will be attending the University of Texas Health School of Public Health and pursuing a master's degree in Epidomology.

Bram Sebio-Brundage will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in History.

Caleb Zavala will be attending Baylor University and pursuing a doctorate degree in Physics.



Spring 2020 Honors Graduates

Spring 2020

Highest Honors Graduate Theses

Diana Alcaraz Villa: *A Rain Dance for the Amazon*

Madison Cowdrey: *Evaluation of Metabolic activities in the mucosal microbiome to understand function*

Rayya Gordon: *The Effects of Gifted and Talented Labels on Academic Self-Efficacy and Well-being in College Students*

Renata Griggs: *The Impact of Racial and Ethnic Inequality in the Courtroom on Modern Society*

Jessica Hightower: *From Script to Stage: The Scenic Evolution*

Camille Ingham: *The Effects of the Intergenerational Transmission of Violence on Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence in Chinese Police Cadets*

Damaris Loza: *ESL program vs. Dual Language program vs. Transitional Bilingual Program: Which one is better?*

Makayla Mason: *An Examination of Chinese Police Cadets' Knowledge of Domestic Violence*

Niesha Pander: *Hurricane Harvey and its Effects on Contamination of the Houston Galveston Area Watershed: Positive & Negative*

Sneha Srikanth: *Effects of Acute DBP Exposure on RAW 264.7 Macrophages*

Yhaz Mhieh Nhay Toliver: *Recovering the Nilo-Arabian Network*

Alexus Uhl: *Social Media Consumption, Mental Health and Academic Performance: Does Race and Gender Moderate these Relations?*

Congrats Graduates!

Graduate Notes

Armon Amini will be attending UT Southwestern Medical School and pursuing a M.D degree.

Taylor Bailey will be attending Texas Women's University and pursuing a master's degree in the Family Nursing Practitioner Program.

Cassidy Bean will be attending Texas A&M and pursuing a doctor's degree in Veterinary Medicine.

Madison Cowdrey will be attending TCOM at the UNT Health Science Center and pursuing a doctorate degree in Osteopathic Medicine.

Jessica Cyree will be pursuing a lab chemist position in Austin, TX.

Ashton Eichelman is planning on becoming a Professional Actress in New York City.

Sean Hamilton will be attending the University of North Texas and pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration.

Juliana Henry will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's in Business Administration.

Gavin Horrocks will be working with the Stafford Police Department as a Police Officer.

Megan Kimes will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Dāmaris Loza will be attending Sam Houston State University to pursue a master's in Curriculum and Instruction while working as a teacher in the Klein Independent School District.

Marissa Mix will continue working as a professional Photographer and Videographer for 3:23 Films.

Taylor Monroe will be working as a Teacher in the Austin Independent School District.

Lucero Nava is planning on working as a Public Relations Specialist.

Neisha Pander is considering attending graduate school for Industrial Management while pursuing a position as an assistant project manager.

Aracelis Pizarro De Jesus will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Sociology while looking for related Internships.

Jason Silvey will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Homeland Security Studies.

Spencer Thurman will be attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration

College of Arts and Media

Diana Alcaraz Villa* Ashton Eichelman
Reneshia Gilder Jessica Hightower*
Marissa Mix Aliya Mohammed
Lucero Nava Daniel Salinas
Rachael Varner

College of Business Administration

Cameron Evans Kayla Garrett
Bethanne Gilliam Sean Hamilton
Li Hanyan Juliana Henry
Brianna Hickman Zachary McKellar
Julia Pervakova Cassee Prince
Spencer Thurman

College of Criminal Justice

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Annalise Brewer Hall Ashley Bustamante
Sarah Clark Lesly Covarrubias
Cameraon Durnford Natasha Escareno
Alicia Fernandez Amilcar Florez
Rosa Garcia Renata Griggs*
Angelina Gulla Eugene Gulley IV
Karla Guzman Natalie Hays
Abrial Henderson Gavin Horrocks
Amy Hunt Camille Ingham*
Daniel Knight Katherine Linn
Makayla Mason* Kaelin Powell
Chelsea Ratcliff Jordan Rivera
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Chadell Davis Cherese Evans
Paris Fields Rayya Gordon*
Gabriel Hapenciuc Serena Harris
Alexis Kring Gabriel Pizarro
Aracelis Pizarro Yhaz Mhieh Nhay Toliver*
Alexus Uhl* Isabella Vasquez
Jason Woolfolk

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Armon Amini Alyssa Barta
Cassidy Bean Cali Berczy
Andrea Bui Madison Cowdrey*
Rachel Cuccia Jessica Cyree
Ethan DeBrosky Linda Galicia
Jordan Garcia Thomas Kuykendall
Lauren Labay Cameron Ligon
Jennifer Lopez Michelle Martinezl
Paige Massey Jacquelin Mata
Taylor Monroe Destinee Morton
Mozie Ugochukwu Joy Ogunlana
Niesha Pander* Jayla Perry
Sneha Srikanth Gabriella Stunz
Cassady West

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