



# areté

*The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston*

Vol. 27 No. 2



The Graduation Issue  
Honors students reflect, celebrate, and plan for the future.



English literature freshman **Sara Balabanlilar** presented this art from a vintage book, entitled *Paper Voyage*, in the spring Ekphrastic Arts festival as part of *Dionysia 2012*. *Ekphrastic* art attempts to confront, interpret, inhabit, and speak to another work of art. Winners of the competition included **Chad Maydwell**, visual art; **Tyson Woolman**, poetry; **Thu-Mai Nguyen** and **Lydia Velasquez**, musical composition and dance performance; and **Archie Parks** and **Emilie Catlett**, musical composition and performance.

# Inside this Issue

**7 Teaching (For) America**  
 Honors grads are giving back by returning to the classroom.

**8 New Initiatives**  
 Three new programs promise to enhance Honors students' marketability.

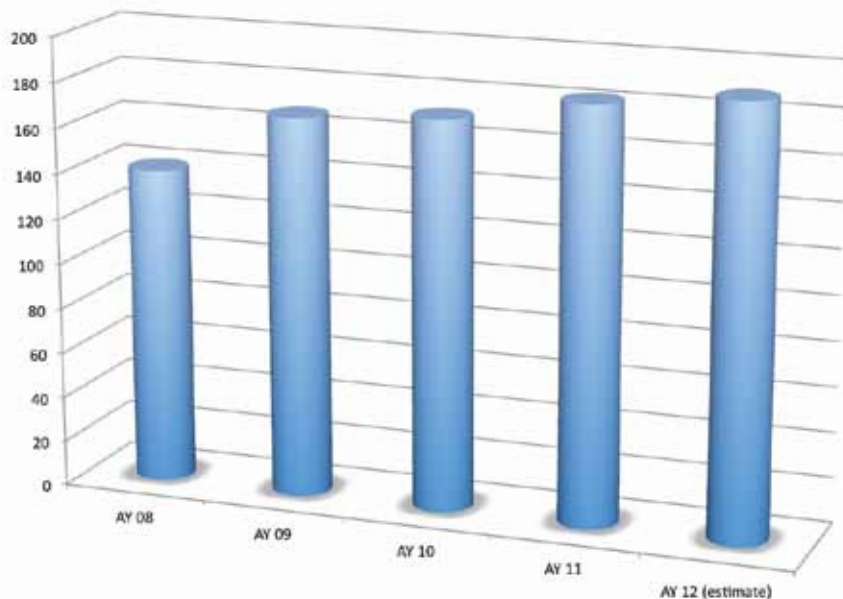
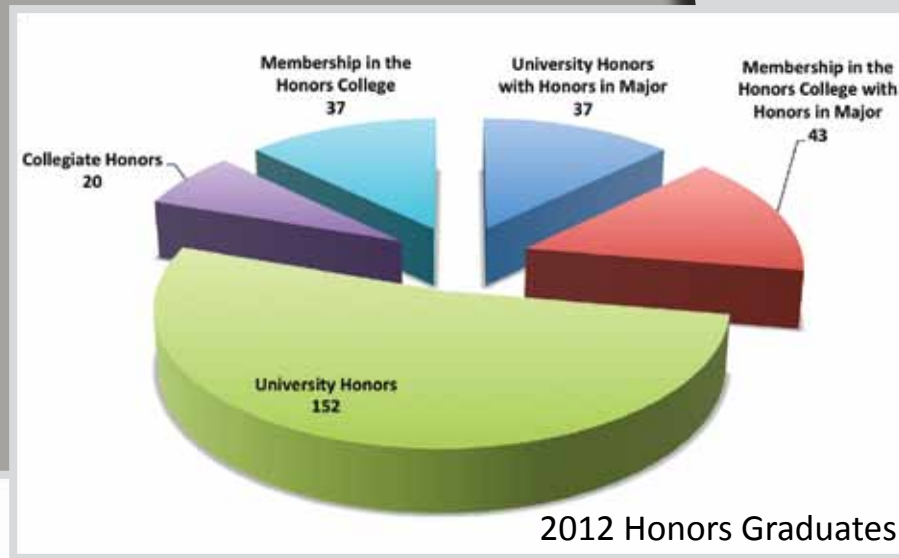
**14 Honors in Europe**  
 Summer 2012 saw Honors groups travel across both Italy and Northern Europe.

**16 Beyond Paper**  
 Oral final exams build connections between Human Sit faculty and students.

**19 Minors & Programs**  
**25 Faculty & Staff News**  
**26 Alumni News**  
**29 Donor Honor Roll**  
**30 Honors in Action**

# Honors Students: By the Numbers

**areté** is published by the Honors College at the University of Houston. The name is a Greek word designating courage in a warrior and civic virtue in the polis. **areté** has come to mean excellence in character and action.



## More Students Participate in Undergraduate Research

More incoming students (last issue's chart) mean more Honors graduates! The spring 2012 Honors College graduating class included 289 students. As the Honors College grows, the number of students taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research grows as well. In 2010–2011, 183 students participated in mentored undergraduate research, including 68 thesis students, 54 student participants in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and 61 recipients of the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS).

**Editor**

Libby Ingrassia ('94)

**Designer**

Lucy M. Bonner

**Contributing Editor**

Mallory Chesser ('08)

**Contributing Writers**

*Safa Ansari-Bayegan*

Richard Armstrong

Beth Kungel Borck ('03)

*Kelly Campbell*

Robert Cremins

Kristen Flack ('12)

Adrienne R. Huntsman ('12)

*Frances Guerrero & Catrina Kim*

Franco Martinez ('10)

*Krystofer Redden*

*Colleen Seitz*

Jana Trojanowski ('12)

Karen Weber

*Emily Zinsitz*

Photographs taken by staff, *Safa Ansari-Bayegan*, Richard Armstrong, *Frances Guerrero*, Pathik Shah, *Nathaniel Stich*, and Alexander's Fine Photography.

*(italics indicate current Honors students)*

## THE HONORS COLLEGE

William Monroe, Dean

Stuart Long, Associate Dean

Christine LeVeaux-Haley, Assistant Dean

Jodie Köszegi ('87), Assistant Dean

Ted Estess, Founding Dean

Office telephone: 713.743.9010

Office fax: 713.743.9015

<http://TheHonorsCollege.com>



2012 *Areté* Award winners

## Graduates Tell Their Honors Stories

Every story has a beginning and an end. The graduating seniors you'll meet in this article—standing in for the 289 graduates from Honors this year—are coming to the end of their beginnings in Honors, and they each have a story to share. Some Honors stories begin before freshman year even starts, as students embrace the new friends and activities at Honors Retreat; other students take a little longer to warm up to the College, and their Honors stories begin later. These graduating seniors reflect on courses and professors, on friends and events. But each of these stories shows that Honors is more than just a graduation designation; it is a journey through undergraduate life that includes memorable instruction, leadership opportunities, and the further preparation for life that can only occur outside the classroom.

As a high school senior, **Rzan Swaidan** ('12, Marketing) thought her destiny was at Texas A&M University. She was initially hesitant when her father signed her up for a campus tour of the University of Houston. "I thought UH would be a concrete jungle, but I came here and saw that they actually

had a nice campus. We took a tour of the business college, and then we walked over to Honors. And I fell in love." She touts her experience in the Human Situation course as a defining moment of her Honors career: "Coming into the Honors College, I was pretty cocky about my writing and argumentation skills. However, I quickly came to realize that what I possessed was the tip of the iceberg. Through the process of being torn down and built back up, I rose from the ashes a fantastic communicator."

Similarly, both **Christina King** ('12, Chemistry) and **Conner Lund** ('12, Political Science and Classical Studies) believe the Human Situation course had a major impact on their academic careers. Conner said, "Human Sit taught me how to read, think, and write, in that order."

Christina King is a Houston native who wanted to stay in town for college. As a shy chemistry major a bit wary of university life, she found a world of opportunities here at Houston. Christina connected with fellow students through a variety of experiences and activities, beginning with her first Honors experience—Freshman Honors Retreat—

which was also her most meaningful. She recalls retreat as the best experience of her college career. "I met some of my closest friends there. I talk to them to this day, and will talk to them after I graduate." As a student she was highly invested in her science classes, but also thoroughly enjoyed the Human Situation course. Her extracurricular experiences ranged from Model Arab League to work with the University of Houston chapter of the Partnership for the Advancement & Immersion of Refugees (PAIR), where she and her peers volunteered at health fairs and offered free health screenings to Congolese and Burmese refugees.

Conner Lund is a music education turned political science and classical studies major who found a wealth of success through Honors. As a former high school band president and drum captain, Conner thought his future was in the arts. But during his first semester of classes, he realized music would not be his path. He even began working on a plan to transfer to another school. But one thing kept him here: his tie with the Honors College. Conner reflected, "The

better story isn't how I got to Honors, but what kept me here." He had thoroughly enjoyed his Human Situation classes with Professors **Steven DiMattei** and **Andy Little**, and before he knew it, he had found his niche through programs like the *Phronesis* minor, which continues the close reading and critical thinking central to the Honors cornerstone course, and in subjects like Latin, classical studies, and political theory. Conner maintained his ties to Honors throughout his college career, and still serves as a senior staff member in the Student Services Office, where he assists with Honors Orientation, Honors Retreat, and logistics related to the Human Situation course.

The leadership you see in these students' activities is an important part of any Honors story. All three graduating seniors were active in Honors Ambassadors, sharing their Honors experiences with students, parents, and other members of the community. Conner and Christina have also both participated in the Model Arab League as delegates. In Conner's senior year, he was named head delegate and led the Honors College team to the national competition in Washington, D.C. "Conner was really the intellectual and spiritual leader for the group," said Assistant Dean **Jodie Köszezi**. Conner and Rzan also served as

mentors to incoming freshmen through the Honors College and Bauer Business Mentor programs.

As an Honors story comes to its conclusion, students and alumni reflect on where their journey has taken them and how Honors continues to play a role. Graduation is just the beginning. In the fall of 2012, Christina will attend a doctoral program in chemistry and chemical biology at the University of Pittsburgh. She hopes to teach one day and to follow in the footsteps of some of the professors who influenced her time in Honors, including history professor **Dr. Orson Cook** and biology professor **Dr. Anna Newman**.

Rzan is currently working in the two-year Analyst Rotation Program at American General Life Companies. As a business analyst in this program, she switches into a different functional department every three months, which allows her to gain broad exposure to American General with the intent of understanding how its departments work together to achieve common goals. In retrospect, Rzan finds her ability to set her own path—a talent she cultivated in Honors—to be a valuable asset in her current position.

Putting his love of reading and political theory to good use, Conner Lund will be heading to Michigan in the fall to complete his Ph.D., fully-funded, at The Hillsdale College Graduate School of Statesmanship. During his final year, he will apply to law school, where he plans to concentrate on corporate law.

recognized for their substantial and sustained contribution to the Honors College. In the words of Assistant Dean **Jodie Köszezi**, these students "eschew apathy" and consistently and remarkably act for the good of the College and their colleagues.

The 2012 *Areté* award winners are **Conner Lund, Alicia Karim, Sana Mohammed, Rzan Swaidan, Joehan Garcia, Joshua Ellis, Cecilia Cai, Jasmine Patel, Andrew Ingalls, Andrew S. Hamilton, Lindsey Slavin, Kristen Flack, Adrienne Huntsman, Reyes Ramirez, Diego Lopez, Jana Trojanowski**, and **Erica Fauser**.

(If you're trying to figure out the rhyme and reason behind the order of the winners listed above, each year Jodie devises a creative order in which

At this year's graduation banquet—an annual event to celebrate the achievements of another

outstanding class of Honors students—**Dean Bill Monroe** reminded attendees that they would "hear not just about academic achievements, grade point averages, majors and minors, but also about participation in Honors Ambassadors, Club Theater, and Coffeehouse, of study abroad, of papers and presentations given at conferences, of internships and athletics." These three graduating seniors offer just a taste of the successes and contributions of this year's graduating class.

This issue shares the stories of a few other new graduates, like **Randy Hannemann, Kristen Flack, Jana Trojanowski**, and **Alicia Karim** (see pages 13, 19, and 18). Others have had their stories shared in recent issues of *Areté*, like **Joshua Ellis** ('12, History), who will attend Howard Medical School in Washington, D.C., this fall, and **Erica Fauser** ('12, History and Political Science), who will intern in Egypt, working to promote international human rights law in the region, before applying for law school in the fall. We'll have to wait for more of Honors' newest alumni to send in their updates to share the stories of the rest of this year's graduates.

by *Adrienne R. Huntsman*

to announce the winners. This year, the students are listed based on the alphabetical order of the high school from which they were graduated.)

The Student Governing Board (SGB) also presents awards—two Outstanding Senior Service Awards go to those students who have offered exceptional service to the College, especially through their service to the SGB. **Joehan Garcia** and **Joshua Ellis** were this year's awardees. In addition, SGB gives a Distinguished Service Award to a faculty or staff member whose student support and service goes beyond the ordinary. This year, Medicine & Society coordinator **Dr. Helen Valier** was recognized for her work advising and supporting the Medicine & Society students and program.



**Assistant Dean Christine LeVeaux-Haley and Andrew S. Hamilton**

### Student and Faculty Awards

In addition to the introduction and recognition of each of the attending graduates during the Graduation Banquet on May 10, the Honors College and the Student Governing Board also presented awards.

Each year, the College names winners of the *Areté* awards. These students are



Terry Scholars at the annual spring picnic

## Remembering Howard Terry

In August of 2004, the Honors College welcomed a unique group of 16 freshmen. The first of their kind at the University of Houston, these Terry Foundation Scholars were chosen through a rigorous process, including both institutional nomination and a boardroom-style interview. Selection is based on four core criteria: scholarship, demonstrated leadership, a commitment to service, and financial need. Those selected are awarded a scholarship that covers full tuition, fees, room, board, and books; in total, the Terry Foundation funds nearly half a million dollars in scholarships at the University of Houston each semester. And

across Texas. But this scholarship is renowned for being more than just a check in the mail. As **Shannon Harrison** ('12, Communication Sciences & Disorders) said, "Mr. Terry and his Foundation have given me so much more than money for college. They gave me a family, a sense of belonging, and the support of people who believed in me when I found it hard to believe in myself."

Sadly, on April 20th, higher education across the state lost one of its greatest champions. Just after finishing the selection process for this year's incoming Terry Scholars, Howard Terry

and the Spring Picnic in Winedale, Texas. The Spring Picnic provides a public opportunity for graduating seniors to thank the Foundation and Mr. Terry. Current Terry **Kim Mai Le** explained, "For me, the best event each year is the Spring Picnic where all Scholars gather together like a big family reunion." At this year's picnic, in addition to the senior speeches, Scholars celebrated Mr. Terry with ceremonies and memorials.

But service to college and community form the true core of a Terry Scholar's identity. Common experiences, such as painting houses in the Third Ward community, aiding wildfire recovery in Bastrop, cleaning beaches in Galveston, mentoring children at the Nehemiah Center, and serving at the Houston Food Bank, forge the Terrys' strong bond. Houston Terry **Reyes Ramirez** ('12, Political Science and Creative Writing) is a reflection of the Terry legacy of service; he has served in the Student Government Association and Frontier Fiesta, co-founded the journal *The Aletheia*, and been a *Phronesis* Fellow. He said, "Mr. Terry showed me that any happiness is happiness forever, to help anyone is to make them less bitter about the world, and that philanthropy is not a calling but in our very nature; when one person helps another, they are at their most vulnerable and that vulnerability is what makes us human. Mr. Terry and his scholarship taught me how to be human." Another service-oriented Terry, **Melissa Hernandez** ('12, Accounting), explained, "The Terry Scholarship allowed me to dedicate myself completely to my college

"Mr. Terry and his foundation have given me so much more than money for college. They gave me a family."

while not every Terry Scholar is an Honors College student, Assistant Dean **Jodie Köszegei** ensures that they are all given personalized advising, dedicated housing areas, and a committed support network.

The Houston-based Terry Foundation, created by **Howard and Nancy Terry** in 1986, supports the scholarship. Tired of investments in brick and mortar, the Terrys resolved to invest in human capital instead, hoping to "help kids help themselves." Originally funding students at The University of Texas and Texas A&M University, the Foundation now funds 725 Scholars at nine Universities

unexpectedly passed away. The Terry Scholars were devastated by the loss. The Houston Terrys held a private memorial shortly after his passing, floating luminaria in the Cullen Plaza fountains. Many of the Honors Terrys were also in attendance at a public memorial where his family shared fond remembrances.

Since 2008, Honors has graduated almost 80 Terry Scholars. These students contributed to the growth and development of the Honors community while also creating a close-knit Terry community. Scholars come together annually for events like the Fall Banquet on campus

education and take advantage of the many opportunities the University had to offer without financial stress."

Howard Terry long claimed the Foundation as his greatest achievement. Over 3,000 students would agree that the humble man from Cameron, Texas, left an indelible impact on their hearts. Mr. Terry often noted that "success is attaining the goals you have set for yourself in life." His goal—and the legacy he leaves behind—is one of helping students succeed and attain their goals here in the Honors College.

by Krystofer Redden

# Teaching (For) America: Honors Grads Give Back

This fall, four recent Honors graduates will be heading back to the classroom—not as students, but as part of Teach For America’s 2012 teaching corps. **Katelyn Halpern** (’09, English), **Samantha Walker** (’11, English), **Diego Lopez** (’12, History and French), and **Joehan Garcia** (’12, English) will be first-time teachers, but they bring to their classrooms an Honors education and the desire to make an impact.

Teach For America (TFA) sends recent graduates into underserved and urban classrooms and aims to change the face of public education by recruiting the best college graduates, fresh from their studies, to commit to teaching for two years. TFA believes that by bringing intelligent young people face-to-face with some of the problems rampant in the school system—poverty, achievement gaps, limited resources, and inequality—they will be inspired to go on and effect change at a higher level, whether they continue to teach or not. A program with lofty ambitions for social reform, it isn’t surprising that it attracts young people with similar goals.

“I’m interested in issues of social justice and rural public health,” said Samantha Walker, who will be stationed in Oklahoma City teaching high school English. “I want to teach for at least four or five years, and then look into graduate programs where I can study public health issues on a larger scale.”

Katelyn Halpern, who will be teaching secondary English in Newark, New Jersey, has worked as a writing coach and a choreography teacher, but had no formal ambitions to be a classroom teacher prior to becoming involved in TFA. She, too, was attracted by the opportunity to make a difference. “The combination of teaching and social justice work appealed to me, so I jumped in.”

Rather than the traditional teacher certification process, many successful TFA applicants take an alternate route to the classroom, usually through emergency or alternative certification. This program is followed by 50 hours of independent work, including ten hours of classroom observation, and a five-week TFA summer institute, or “boot camp.”

Though TFA is sometimes criticized for

putting teachers into classrooms without any formal training, Samantha believes this is one of the program’s strengths. “I didn’t have to major in education. I majored in English, a subject I am passionate about, and got to cultivate different interests.” Those interests included coursework in the Medicine & Society minor—classes she credits with influencing her commitment to social justice.

Joehan Garcia, who began her studies as a communications major, called her decision to be a teacher “a complete redirection.” The change of course was inspired by Honors political science professor **Jeremy Bailey**, her Human Situation instructor, who pointed out her aptitude for interpreting a text and for commanding a room. Joehan changed her major to English literature and set her sights on teaching. “My teachers and parents have always kept me on track, and pushed me along. I see teaching as a way of repaying that investment in me.”

Diego Lopez, who also begins his TFA tenure in Houston, shares Joehan’s sentiments. “Being a minority, I fall into the demographic that TFA is trying to help, so I feel a real responsibility to give back.” Diego will be teaching in a 5th grade bilingual program at Davila Elementary, and anticipates that roughly half of his lessons will be in Spanish.

While teaching has always been part of Diego’s career plans, he is pleased with the placement support offered by Teach For America and believes that the program has opened a lot of doors. “The TFA name has some clout. It helps get you interviews with schools. I had two interviews my first day, and was offered a job on the spot.”

The recognition of four Honors graduates by a prestigious program like Teach For America may come as no surprise to those who have always known Honors students were among the best. However, **Dean Bill Monroe** noted that



Diego, Joehan, and Samantha dressed for class

Joehan, a first-generation American, is excited to begin at Houston’s Madison High School in the fall, where she will be teaching junior and senior English. She sees high school teachers as instrumental in helping students make decisions about whether and where to go to college, and she hopes to help other first-generation students navigate the difficult college application process. “TFA’s target group is my group. Their goal of teaching at-risk youth aligns perfectly with mine.”

TFA’s selection of four Honors alumni this year is nevertheless unprecedented. “Traditionally, students selected for Teach For America, like those selected for nationally competitive scholarships, attend Ivy League universities or elite liberal arts colleges. It’s a real mark of distinction for the students accepted to this highly competitive program,” he said. “Just as we would be proud of a Rhodes or Marshall Scholar, we are proud of Katelyn, Samantha, Diego, and Joehan.”



**Christine LeVeaux-Haley and Karen Weber introduce Honors student Erica Fauser to the new ePortfolio program.**

high school students to the University of Houston, such as those involved in the Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) with which Honors is building a relationship. “These students are committed,” said HUDL president **Ron Bankston**. “They may spend hundreds of hours preparing for a single tournament, and they frequently look to continue debate at the college level.”

Preparing for tournaments is a considerable time-investment, equivalent to taking a three-hour class. Though students will not be required to enroll in a course in order to compete in tournaments, they have the option of earning credit for their work by taking classes with the newly appointed director of the program, **Sarah Spring**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa. Policy Debate and Persuasive Speech, an elective course in the planned Leadership Studies minor, will provide students this fall with an understanding of the theory and practice of debate and persuasion, as well as the useful art of public speaking.

## Connecting Honors Experiences

An Honors education lays the groundwork for professional success, but graduates need more than a high GPA to succeed in today’s job market. Honors College students are already joining the College’s minors in droves (see infographic, page 24), and have been adding to their professional skills with programs from Model Arab League and Writing Craft Talks to Career Fridays. Now, the Honors College is developing three new programs to help students package their academic experiences and sell themselves to prospective employers. A program in policy debate, a minor in leadership studies, and the ePortfolio program offer a wide range of options for students looking to make connections between their various academic experiences.

### **Policy Debate Program**

The Policy Debate Program will be housed in the Honors College but open to all undergraduates, operating on the same model as the Office of Undergraduate Research. Policy debate is conducted in two-person teams whose objective is to debate urgent and complex government policies, forcing students to become

familiar with varied topics in philosophy, sociology, foreign affairs, economic policy, and domestic politics. National tournaments are challenging, 2-day contests, drawing students and teams from top universities like Northwestern and Emory, as well as regional competitors like The University of Texas and Rice University.

Policy debate is a natural fit for the Honors College, which encourages students to conduct independent research through programs like SURF and PURS. “Many of the activities central to policy debate—research, analysis, and discovery—are at the heart of opportunities we seek to make available to our students,” said Assistant Dean **Christine LeVeaux-Haley**, who headed the recent search for a program director. The program will complement the other minors offered through the Honors College as well as serve as a springboard for students who may want to explore a topic further by conducting a faculty-guided research project through the Office of Undergraduate Research.

The Honors College also believes the Policy Debate Program will serve as a recruiting tool to attract talented

### **Leadership Studies**

The new Leadership Studies initiative will connect several key Honors College programs and offer students a substantive résumé enhancement. Leadership and communication skills learned through the program, which is open to students of all majors, will complement any field and any “next step” after college—from graduate or professional school to direct entry into the business or political world.

“The Honors College has always encouraged its students to give back and be active in a community, whether in Honors, the University, or beyond,” said **Brenda Rhoden**, creator of the program. “The Leadership Studies minor will encourage students not only to participate in organizations, but also to develop skills for leading them.” Students will build a solid foundation for practical leadership by studying past and contemporary leaders, discussing leadership theory, and gaining hands-on experience. Training programs designed to foster specific skills will augment classroom studies, as will the opportunities for leadership offered directly through the program via collaboration with community groups.

Still pending formal approval, the Leadership Studies minor would be available for students graduating in fall



2013 and thereafter. Starting this fall, students can register for three courses that will allow them to make progress toward the minor: the Leadership Studies flagship course, Leadership Theory and Practice; Policy Debate and Persuasive Speech (see above); and the ePortfolio course (see below). Leadership Theory and Practice, as its name implies, combines classroom study with field training. Taught by Rhoden, the course will delve into issues relevant to today's leaders, such as power

program, providing students with an interactive tool to showcase their career in Honors. The program's objective is to offer a retrospective of a student's time in Honors, and to provide students with a means of conveying who they are and where they are headed.

**Karen Weber**, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, explained, "I often work with undergraduates who have done so many remarkable things, such as choosing to double major, conduct research,

During senior year, students will be encouraged to enroll in the one-hour ePortfolio course. The course will guide students through the folio process and provide them with the knowledge and tools to transition the archived materials stored in Blackboard into a public face that can be shared with recommendation letter writers, potential employers, and graduate and professional school selection committees.

LeVeaux-Haley and Weber offered

**"The ePortfolio program is intended to provide students with both the theory and the mechanics to connect the dots of their education."**

and ethics, teamwork, mentoring, and conflict resolution, as well as cultivate leadership qualities in each student through reflection and experience.

Taking elements from the successful Career Fridays series, Leadership Theory and Practice will include résumé-writing workshops and mock interviews as well as group projects and self-assessment. Rhoden explains that "groups are microcosms of working organizations, and through assessing how one interacts, communicates, and contributes within a group project, one can determine a personal style for interpersonal communication and leadership."

Throughout the minor, students will be able to shape their choices—of classes, projects, and subjects—to a specific area of interest. The Leadership Studies minor will be tailor-made for each student and his or her personal goals.

### **ePortfolio**

Also launching this fall is the ePortfolio

study abroad, or start an organization. It can be challenging for these students to step back and say, "WHY did I choose this challenging academic track, or decide to lead this organization?" The ePortfolio program is intended to provide students with both the theory and the mechanics to connect the dots of their education."

Beginning in fall 2012, students in the Honors College will have an ePortfolio shell, or folder, in their online Blackboard account. Students will store and upload their reflections and work to the shell, which will contain folders for course work, research, leadership, publications, and presentations, etc. The shell, which will only be seen by the student, will remain in the student's account until he or she graduates. Honors faculty and advisors will meet with students throughout their Honors careers about the progress they are making on their ePortfolios and suggest class assignments they may wish to save to their ePortfolio Blackboard accounts.

a preview of the program to a group of graduating seniors and continuing Honors students on May 4th. The workshop was intended for those students who would not have an opportunity to participate in the program in the fall, and for others who simply chose to get started in developing their portfolios over the summer.

**Erica Fauser** ('12, History and Political Science), who attended the session, shared, "As a graduating senior, I knew that I would not have the opportunity to take the ePortfolio class, but I saw this workshop as a way to help organize my undergraduate accomplishments into a résumé with a distinct purpose, as well as a way to develop a strong personal statement for my law school applications. Regardless of the major or career path a student chooses, I believe that a course like this is vital to gaining a competitive edge and being more marketable to potential employers and school admissions committees."



**Brenda Rhoden, Sarah Spring, Karen Weber, and Christine LeVeaux-Haley**

# Scholars Invitational Offers Early Orientation

This spring the Honors College collaborated with the University Office of Admissions to host the first Scholars Invitational, an event that allows high-caliber incoming students to fulfill their orientation requirements and register for classes before all other incoming students. The landmark event occurred on April 20th and was attended by over 200 University scholarship recipients. About 180 of these students are now part of the Honors College.

In previous years, the Honors College offered early academic advising to students through the Spring Invitational. That event, which hosted up to 70 students each spring, was not considered an official orientation, and although students left with courses in mind, they still had to return to attend Orientation and register for classes. This year's Scholars Invitational marked the first time that the spring event also served as an official University orientation.

"This event means that the Honors College is not only locking in high-quality students in April, but that these students are registered for courses and free from any summer orientation obligations as is the tradition at most other universities," stated **Brenda Rhoden**, director of student affairs. "Additionally, each of



**Katie Jewett helps new Honors students register for classes.**

these students was assigned an Honors Mentor that they can contact throughout the summer if they have questions or concerns. All of the different parts of this event display the amazing support services available to these high-achieving students through Honors."

Attendees experienced much of the traditional programming offered at summer orientations, including university workshops, small group activities, campus tours, and advising. Honors also continued its tradition of personalized peer-to-peer advising by employing the help of over 50 student volunteers. These volunteers trained under the guidance of **Andy Little**, the coordinator of academic services in the Honors College. "We couldn't have done this without our amazing student advisors—they turned out in record numbers and made this a great experience for all our incoming students," Andy Little affirmed. Student advisor **Daniel Sierra** agreed: "This type of individualized advising has great benefits for both the advisor and the advisee. I got to know some of my advisees and gave them a feel for what Honors is all about and how close we can be as an Honors family."

To facilitate advising for the immense number of students who attended, the Honors College used the Hilton Grand Ballroom, where attendees were paired with student advisors based on major. Students then registered for classes on the spot using portable computers and tablets. "It is a great opportunity for these new

students because it allows them to get in before many of the University courses are filled," said Little. As an added benefit, the size of this orientation means that later summer orientations will be substantially smaller, and therefore easier to manage when students invariably encounter more closed courses.

Honors welcomed students the night before the Invitational, partnering some attendees with current Honors students for an overnight stay in Honors housing, and inviting them to a social event called the Honors College Coffeehouse, a talent show sponsored by the Student Governing Board. The event gave incoming students a chance to see campus life and meet current Honors students in an informal and relaxed setting. "Coffeehouse is one of my favorite social events, because it not only showcases Honors talent but displays how multifaceted our student body really is," said **Joehan Garcia** ('12, English), Coffeehouse coordinator. "The event is great for the new students because they meet a lot of current students and get a sense of the events they can participate in while attending the Honors College."

The Honors College plans to continue the partnership with the Office of Admissions to offer the Scholars Invitational in future years. Honors administrators are confident that this initiative will enhance the new student experience and lead to other successful partnerships throughout campus to meet the needs of Honors students.



**One-on-one help**

# HPA Students Take the Direct Route to Medical School

Beginning in the fall of 2012, the Houston Premedical Academy (HPA) at the University of Houston moves into the Honors College. Each year, the program invites students from the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions to apply for up to 10 conditionally guaranteed slots at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM).

While the program has been in existence since 1996, with the new MCAT and medical school focus on ethics, cultural studies, and philosophy, BCM believes that exposure to liberal arts in the Honors College—including the Human Situation course and the Medicine & Society minor—would benefit HPA students and their future careers. According to

met with Honors Assistant Dean **Jodie Köszegei**, who is also one of the program’s advisors, to discuss updated program requirements. Beyond the requirement to join the Honors College, the students may take any undergraduate major and agree to maintain an overall and science grade point average of at least 3.5, to make better than a C in all the required BCM pre-requisite courses—taking any of those possible in an Honors section—and to earn at least a 30 on the MCAT.

In addition, students are expected to live on campus and have regular meetings with advisors and faculty mentors. Students will also join the Medicine & Society minor, complete an internship with a BCM-affiliated hospital or clinic, and

40 years, and approximately 50 percent of our students already matriculate into the University of Houston each year.” She continued, “We are very excited about the new partnership. The students selected each year for the Houston Premedical Academy will benefit from the courses, resources, and mentoring that the Honors College affords students who qualify for the program.”

The program brings benefits both to the students and to the Honors College. As Köszegei recently explained to the incoming students, Human Sit and other Honors classes will require them to become better communicators, something on which medical schools are placing increasing importance, and will “teach students how

**“The Honors College general curriculum and Medicine & Society minor are tailor-made to not just meet but exceed the requirements of the new MCAT.”**

**Dr. Simon Bott**, one of the program’s advisors, “The new MCAT has really put teeth into the previously only-stated desire of medical schools to enroll and produce well-rounded physicians. The Honors College general curriculum and Medicine & Society minor are tailor-made to not just meet but exceed the requirements of the new MCAT. Thus, these students will not only benefit from the friendly and collegial environment of the Honors College, but will receive a wonderful, rigorous, and broad pre-med education.”

The incoming HPA class recently

participate in a mentored research project such as a SURF, PURS, or thesis. In return, HPA students receive tuition support for all four years at the University of Houston, a housing stipend for their freshman year, all the supports and benefits of the Honors College, and—most importantly—entry into Baylor College of Medicine.

**Agnes Perry**, principal of the DeBakey High School, provides some background for the relationship between DeBakey and the University of Houston. “DeBakey has had a strong relationship with the University of Houston for over

to triage—how to make decisions about what’s most important” in papers, in classes, and in time management.

While the students who entered the program in previous years are governed by their agreements with BCM, Honors is committed to this cohort as well, welcoming them to Honors if they wish, offering the benefits of Honors affiliation, and giving them access to the program’s advisors: Köszegei, Bott, and **Dr. Helen Valier**.

The HPA students are clearly an asset for the College in themselves, but as Medicine & Society coordinator Helen Valier said, the program’s “expansion and outreach offer a bridge both to the high schools and to the medical center.” She hopes the program will also serve as a “template for Honors’ interaction with other medical schools.”

“BCM is delighted that the HPA is now part of the Honors College at UH,” said **Stephen Greenberg**, MD, Dean of Medical Education at BCM. “This new strategic direction will strengthen our partnership with UH by providing exceptional academic and skill-building opportunities that prepare students to excel at BCM and in future medical practice.”



**Assistant Dean Jodie Köszegei welcomes new HPA students.**

# Mat Bosch and 8 Other Undergraduates Present at NCUR



**Mat Bosch at NCUR 2012**

When **Mathieu Bosch** first entered the Honors College in fall 2010, transferring in from Houston Community College as a sophomore, he knew he wanted to get involved in research. As a chemistry major with his sights set on earning an advanced degree, he was eager to pursue an educational path that would enhance his academic career.

That fall he enrolled in inorganic chemistry with **Dr. Angela Möller** from the Department of Chemistry. While they were consulting regarding Mat's petition for Honors, Professor Möller offered him the opportunity to develop a route to prepare synthetic minerals only found near the Tolbachik fissure volcano at one of the remotest places: the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. Mat seized this opportunity, and enjoyed the research immensely. He continued to work with Professor Möller through the PURS spring 2011 program, and the project ultimately resulted in Mat synthesizing a mineral that had never been artificially produced before.

"Honors pushed me to get involved in research early, and it proved valuable. You should build a relationship with a professor and have an idea of what you want to do as early as you can," shared Mat.

One year later, Mat had the good fortune of accompanying eight other undergraduates to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), the largest

national conference of its kind.

The NCUR 2012 conference took place at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and welcomed research presentations from over 3000 undergraduates. "We were delighted that UH was represented for the first time at this conference. It offered a forum for our students to present on their research on a national stage and learn from their peers—both students in their discipline and outside of their field," said **Dr. Stuart Long**, associate dean of undergraduate research and the Honors College. Long, **Karen Weber**, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, and **Jodie Köszegi**, assistant dean, accompanied the nine students on the trip.

Mat concurs with Dr. Long, sharing, "The conference allowed me to meet and talk to other chemists about my research, and also helped me learn how to present my research more professionally and effectively. My favorite aspect of the trip was the oral presentations I was able to see in chemistry. It was interesting to hear and ask questions about other students' research that I could understand and evaluate on a deeper level."

The conference entailed attending a wide range of oral, poster, and creative presentations from undergraduates across the U.S. The group also enjoyed the plenary speakers: **Mario R. Capecchi**, a Nobel laureate and Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics and Biology at the

University of Utah, and **Anne Fadiman**, an award-winning author, essayist, and editor, who is the inaugural Francis Writer in Residence at Yale University, and author of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*.

In his senior honors thesis Mat is characterizing the mineral he created by exploring the reaction conditions and learning more about the synthetic aspects of formation. The mineral's inherent physical properties are studied for the first time and reveal unexpected novel insights into the field of material sciences. He will defend the project in December, and then plans to attend graduate school in fall 2013 in inorganic chemistry. Mat is hopeful the research he conducted as an undergraduate will pave the way for his success. "It is having the opportunity to conduct research, co-author a paper, and present at a national conference that will enhance my application for top tier graduate schools."

Long added, "The students enjoyed the opportunity to present their research and network with other undergraduates, faculty, and representatives from a large number of graduate schools. This experience should encourage these students to present at future conferences in their own specific fields, and also let other UH undergraduates know that presenting at a national conference is a very achievable goal."



## NCUR 2012

From left to right (top row): Christine Sikes, Nicole Richardson, Trang Duong, Cesar Figueroa, Jon Casey Berridge, Dasha Tikhomirova, Shon MonDragon, and Jodie Köszegi  
From left to right (bottom row): Mat Bosch, Karen Weber, and Katie Kirsch

## UNlimited Plans: Randy Hannemann

“The real importance is mission, to make a difference,” says new Honors alumnus **Randy Hannemann** of his entrepreneurial endeavors. A spring 2012 graduate of the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship, Randy cites passion and mission as key to business success and personal fulfillment.

Randy has made some formidable achievements throughout his college career, the most recent being a highly successful semester as a member of the Wolff Center UNlimiters team. Randy and his team presented a business plan for UNlimiters, an online marketplace to help people with disabilities find useful everyday products. The team won first place in both the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Entrepreneurship’s 25th Annual Innovation Competition and the Richards Barrentine Values and Venture Business Plan Competition at the Texas Christian University Neely School of Business. The team also took second place in Chapman University’s

California Dreamin’ competition, and won a total of \$44,000 throughout this semester of competition, besting both undergraduate and graduate student teams from universities across the country. “We could show that our plan makes business sense and also grabs you emotionally,” Randy said of UNlimiters, stressing the importance of business viability and having a positive impact in any entrepreneurial venture.

In addition to his success as part of the UNlimiters team, Randy also won first place in the 2012 CougarPitch competition. The annual competition challenges University of Houston students, faculty, and staff to present a business plan that addresses a perceived need in the market in two minutes, followed by a five-minute Q&A session. Randy’s pitch for a firm called The Hero’s Mentor earned him first place and a \$1,000 prize. He is most proud, however, of his organization’s mission. “The Hero’s Mentor connects



**Bauer Honors Graduate Randy Hannemann**

returning soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with mentors who are themselves veterans and understand the pain felt during the transition period.”

The Hero’s Mentor was born out of Randy’s personal experiences transitioning from military to civilian life. “When I first came out of the military, I took the first \$9 an hour job I could find,” said Randy. Like numerous other

“I want to change the world.”

veterans, Randy was concerned about unemployment. With the help of several people, including his mentors at the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship, and through his own hard work and determination, Randy has discovered new opportunities available for someone with his unique skill set. He wants to help fellow veterans realize their potential as well.

“850,000 American veterans are unemployed in this country,” said Randy. “80 percent of those who have jobs are employed in positions that underutilize their capabilities. I thought, ‘Let’s connect all of the guys getting out of the military with a mentor—help them see the light at the end of the tunnel.’”

A Wolff Center scholar and PURS recipient, Randy has drawn from numerous resources, mentors, and life experiences to achieve his goals. Currently a Staff Sergeant in the active reserves, Randy credits his time in the military for his versatility and discipline. “You get tasked

with all sorts of different things in the military. Every day was something new and different. I chose the business field because it’s versatile. The Wolff Center was an obvious choice for me for both geographic reasons and because, at the time, it was the second-ranked program in the country.” (The University of Houston’s Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff Center is now the top-ranked undergraduate entrepreneurship program in the country.)

Of his choice of major, Randy said, “Entrepreneurship is a way to wear so many hats. You have to be really upbeat to be successful. You’re going to take some rides.” Throughout his experience in the Honors College and the Wolff Center, Randy has enjoyed the close relationships he has built with professors. Randy specifically cites Associate Director of the Wolff Center **Ken Jones**, Professor **Dave Cook**, and his official Wolff Center mentor **Warren Barhorst**. “I wish everyone had professors like these. I like that I could approach them about the real-life applications of what we were learning.”

After graduation, Randy hopes to find a position that allows him to nurture his business, The Hero’s Mentor. “Even if I’m unsure about the financial future, I know that I’m doing what I love, and I’ll find a way to make money. My mentor (Barhorst) helped me realize this was my passion. I want to change the world, and I won’t be happy unless I do that.”

*by Colleen Seitz*



Honors in Amsterdam

## Honors Abroad: Canvassing Europe

One of the hallmarks of an Honors education is the opportunity for students to expand their viewpoints and experiences through study away and study abroad trips. In recent years, students have spent semesters studying in Georgetown, taken artists’ retreats, and traveled on the Honors trips abroad to places from Spain, Israel, and Greece to Ireland and Turkey.

Below, read the tales of this summer’s trips to Europe.

### Northern Europe

“How is it that a country like Germany, which has produced such cultural riches, could have embroiled itself in dark historical episodes such as the Holocaust, WWII, and the Cold War?” This is the question that approximately 25 students, led by Honors academic and study abroad advisor **Robert Cremins**, set out to answer this May. After completing a semester-long course called *Europe: Splendor and Shadow*, students continued their search for answers on a two-week tour of Northern Europe, which included stops in Amsterdam, Berlin, Leipzig, Meissen, and Prague.

At the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, students walked in the footsteps of Anne and her family as they hid in the back of a townhouse owned by a former employee of her father. At related sites in Berlin, including the starkly executed Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the Topography of Terror, a museum focused on the perpetrators of the Holocaust, the search for answers to the question posed by Professor Cremins was both difficult and profoundly sad. Nonetheless, for

students, faculty, and staff, the journey was worth the difficulty.

“The guides had carefully planned each of our stops, and were always willing to share their knowledge, including some really poignant personal experiences from a guide who had lived in Prague during the Velvet Revolution,” said **Katalina Serna** (’12, Biology), recent graduate and co-founder of the HOPE Collaborative, an organization offering leadership training to students from at-risk populations. “This trip was a fantastic learning experience.”

Beyond the shadows there was also splendor, and other highlights of the trip included the beautiful castles and houses of Prague, the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, where Johannes Sebastian Bach worked as an organist and composer, and the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, where guides

explained the narratives expressed through original friezes from the Temple of Zeus in Pergamon (Turkey), and a full-size reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate of Babylon.

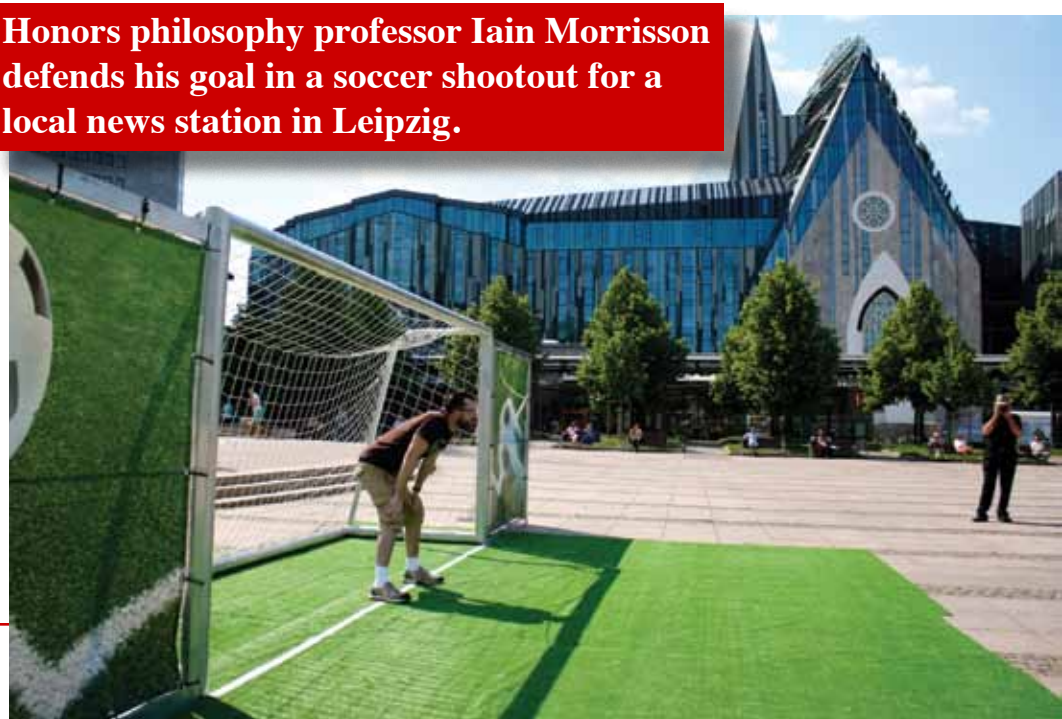
### Italy

**Professors Richard Armstrong** and **Helen Valier** led a group of 19 students on a “bikes and volcanoes” tour of Italy in June 2012. Officially, it was the “Cultures of Italy Tour,” which introduced the 26 travelers to three of the country’s most culturally significant regions: Tuscany, Lazio, and the Campania. But they did ride bikes, and there was a volcano. There was even a Nutella pizza.

The tour began in Florence, the “Cradle of the Renaissance” famous for its domed cathedral and immortal artworks. Students visited the Uffizi Museum, Pitti Palace, the Franciscan church of Santa Croce (where Machiavelli’s tomb is located), and the Duomo (some students even climbed the 463 steps to the cathedral dome’s summit). Even their hotel, the Hotel Leonardo da Vinci, recalled the Renaissance. “The irony of this hotel,” said tour leader Richard Armstrong, “is that I used to live in a pensione right around the corner from here when I was 19. I checked out my old address, and the same name is still on the buzzer after 30 years!”

The tour took in the beauty of the Tuscan countryside as well. On one day trip, they toured the nearby city of Lucca by bicycle. Lucca retains its 16th-century walls, and now a broad bike path runs their circuit, allowing for easy access to the city’s highlights. Armstrong explained, “I try to remember these travelers are young

Honors philosophy professor Iain Morrisson defends his goal in a soccer shootout for a local news station in Leipzig.



## FEET

Established in 2006 by Honors alumni **Hanneke Faber** ('90, Journalism) and **Aris Economon** ('89, Economics) with the belief that “individuals cannot consider themselves well-educated without having experienced Europe firsthand,” the Faber-Economon European Travel (FEET)



scholarship provides an opportunity for two Honors College students who have never been abroad to experience Europe.

This year's winners, **Frances Guerrero** and **Catrina Kim**, share an excerpt from their Diary of FEET, below. (See the full

people, so just dragging them through museums is not enough. They need something more interactive.” They also saw Pisa's Square of Miracles, including the gorgeous cathedral and its famously leaning tower.

Along the way to Rome, they visited the hill town San Gimignano, famous for its many medieval towers and picturesque streets. After taking in the views of the Tuscan countryside, **Camden Kirkland** proclaimed, “I am not going home EVER.” They also stopped in Siena to visit the extraordinary cathedral and the lavishly decorated Piccolomini Library. During their two days in Rome, the group toured the Vatican, including St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, and the Vatican Museums. They also met with FEET travelers **Frances Guerrero** and **Catrina Kim** (see above).

Heading south, the group next went to Naples and Sorrento, where they toured the world-famous archaeological museum, stuffed with the riches of Pompeii and Herculaneum. **Jonathan Sherer** was especially eager to view the famous mosaic of Alexander the Great fighting the Persian King Darius. “I am a huge Alexander

Diary online at [TheHonorsCollege.com/arete](http://TheHonorsCollege.com/arete).) The two, who didn't know each other well before winning the scholarship, met weekly over the spring semester to discuss their ‘homework’—reading all the Rick Steves guidebooks and planning their trip. Catrina, a music major who plans to pursue her doctorate in music theory, is particularly excited about being in Europe—the birthplace of classical music and where she feels “music is most alive.” Frances has been getting a lot of travel advice from her grandmother, a travel agent, and is excited to “get to know herself a little more.” Although she's normally “a planner,” she knows that she'll have to let her guard down a little on the trip.

### Diary of FEET

Frances: Amsterdam

We dressed for cold weather when we left Den Haag because the temperature had been around mid 50s/60s. Amsterdam surprised us with its warm weather! On the train ride to Amsterdam we met a young lady named Meer who ended

fan,” he explained. The group then endured the rigors of a resort hotel in lovely Sorrento, complete with swimming pool and sunny terrace. This was only to rest up for an active day of walking the streets of Pompeii and climbing the slopes of Mt. Vesuvius to view its deadly crater. “This is one thing off my bucket list,” said **Caitlin Lowe** as she climbed the steep trail to the summit.

A final day back in Rome was spent touring the Colosseum, the Forum, and the Pantheon. “We saved the best for last—but then again, I may be a little biased here,” said Armstrong, a classics professor and well-known apologist for all things Roman. “The Romans would have been proud of our group. There was no mutiny, and we didn't lose a single one of our party. We didn't conquer anything, but neither did we surrender. Let's call that a moral victory.”

up staying with us the whole day and gave us a personal tour of the city. We were fortunate to have experienced the city as the locals do—by bike! We visited the Anne Frank House, walked through the Red Light District, and relaxed at the Rembrandt Plaza. Catrina and I were surprised at the design of the houses: small, narrow, and slightly tilting forward, all from the 1500s. Overall, Amsterdam was a great first stop on our own, especially since the Dutch speak English!

Catrina: Paris

We have already seen much of the city: the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Versailles, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Eiffel Tower! Needless to say, our walking shoes have proven very handy. I have found the Orsay a definite highlight of our trip so far; though the collection was too large to see in a single day, we caught many of the standouts. The Symbolist painters, especially Redon,

*Continued on page 24*



**Earthquake buttresses in the small Italian town of Siena**

# Oral Finals: Conversations and Connections

“All these texts we’ve read pursue a connection between the living and the dead; who among the dead haunts you and why?” This question is one that might have launched a recent oral final exam for the Human Situation, starting a conversation about the texts, themes, and ideas from the course. Oral finals have been the culminating event for the Human Situation—replacing the written final—since the late **Professor Ross Lence** launched the idea in 2003.

Alpha team leader **Dr. Iain Morrisson** recalled, “Dr. Lence believed an oral exam would be a distinctive trademark for the Human Situation and would provide a connection to other classic liberal arts courses.” As Human Situation coordinator **Dr. Richard Armstrong** commented, “There is a notion that a liberally educated

discussion sections. Like the grading for lecture papers for the course, students sit for the 20-minute exam with a professor from their team (Alpha or Omega) who is not their discussion leader. “Getting to know other students helps us develop their talents and foster relationships,” commented Dr. Morrisson. “Then we can help students by introducing them to programs and courses they might not otherwise find.” Students like getting to know other professors better, too. “I love oral finals because they allow for a deeper connection with professors and a greater understanding of the themes and ideas,” said senior economics major **Diego Cervantes**. “The experience made me a much better student in all my other classes.”

At their best, oral finals become conversations. One benefit of these discussions, said Professor Armstrong,

work in the course.

One of the best surprises that can happen for student or faculty is when they connect with each other over their reactions to the texts. Said freshman **Erika Lai**, “I used to wonder, ‘Am I the only one who gets so excited about books?’ But I found when talking to **Dr. Mikics** during my exam that we shared a love of the texts and connections.”

Faculty members also believe that the skillset required by the oral final makes good preparation for students’ futures. Students practice articulating their ideas and learn to volunteer their thoughts. “They are thinking on their feet and learning to mix preparation and improvisation—good skills for a job interview,” said Professor Zecher. Rising senior **Chris Powell** reflected that oral finals encourage “more variety in how you discuss topics, and the purpose-driven discussion builds confidence.”

Most faculty and students believe that preparing for the final is, as communications freshman **Ellie Pardee** put it, “a combination of everything we’ve done—looking at the big picture, thinking aloud in discussion to test ideas, pulling arguments from papers, and then expanding those arguments.” Some students emphasize the benefits of using study groups to prepare for the oral final. “We went over our notes from lecture, the plot and characters from the different texts, did mock finals, and discussed and drew connections between various texts,” recalled psychology sophomore **Sandra Yan**. Chris agreed, “We talked about the running themes and what connected the texts, really put all the texts and writers next to each other to examine the concepts rather than just memorize details.”

Concluded Ellie, “If you’re thinking about [the oral final] all semester, it helps you get the big picture of what you’re reading, why you’re reading it.”

In the end, while students are often nervous going in to their oral finals, and while faculty worry about staying attentive through the sheer number of oral finals they give, both sides believe the exams are an important aspect of the Honors experience. As Chris said, “The classes with oral exams are the ones I really remember, the ones that made the most impact on how I think.”

**Dr. John Harvey presses a point during oral finals.**



person can read the great books and talk about them.” The oral final lets students prove to themselves and to their instructors that they have these skills.

The oral final piloted for about four years in Team Omega, until the deans and team leaders merged the best practices from both teams to create a more uniform Human Sit experience. Now, the oral finals give students and faculty alike a chance to get to know those outside their own

is that “the oral final becomes more than just an assessment—it becomes a final teaching moment.” **Dr. Jonathan Zecher** agreed. “During questioning I find students who have assumptions they haven’t challenged when thinking about the texts.” Plus, as Professor Morrisson said, “The oral exam really puts a spotlight on the student. There’s no hiding out; it’s a direct, immediate intellectual experience” that serves as the perfect capstone to their





## Lunching and Learning

learned more about a single text in this independent reading group than I could have dreamed of... Professor Cremins is truly an expert, and this group would not have survived without his efforts.”

Professor Mikics concurred:

“Talking about Joyce’s *Ulysses* with Robert Cremins and the students has been a wonderful treat for me this term. I fell in love with *Ulysses* when I read it for the first time as a teenager (though I probably didn’t understand much, I still loved it), and I taught it once as a graduate student, but I’ve never met an expert on the book like Professor Cremins. He’s a true *Ulysses* maven, and he knows Dublin, Joyce’s book, and the relevant Irish history inside out. Cremins has a wonderful feel for *Ulysses*; he approaches it with the skillful eye of a novelist, the knowledge of a scholar, and the great affection of a common reader.”

The Joyceans are set to tackle the last six (mega) episodes in the fall. You are welcome to join them!

## Lunch with *Ulysses*

Late in the fall semester, when sophomore **Kevin Meinhardt** suggested that the Honors College start a *Ulysses* reading group, **Professor Robert Cremins** jumped at the opportunity. Kevin wanted a modern epic to complement the Human Situation—Antiquity reading of *The Odyssey*, and James Joyce’s *Ulysses* seemed to fit the bill. As Professor Cremins recalled, “I had been wanting to revisit James Joyce’s monumental novel—the action of which takes place over a single summer’s day in 1904 in my hometown, Dublin—for a long time, and here was a chance to do that in the genial company of both seasoned and neophyte Joyceans.”

In the well-appointed setting of the Dean’s conference room, nearly every Tuesday throughout the spring semester the Joyceans met for “lunch” with *Ulysses*, doing a close reading of one of the book’s 18 distinct “episodes” each week. One week the group literally did eat lunch, consuming some gorgonzola cheese and crackers in honor of the light meal eaten by Leopold Bloom,

Joyce’s everyman hero. Throughout the weeks, the group tried to make its reading as experiential as possible: listening to some of the music, for example, that gives this melody-haunted novel its “soundtrack.” Also on theme with the readings, Professor Cremins provided his own notes on the narrative’s Irish context, written in what he calls a “slightly eccentric stream-of-consciousness style.”

Other key members of the reading group have been **Dr. David Mikics**, rising senior **Chris Powell** (who is set to do independent study on Joyce in the fall), **Dean Bill Monroe**, and his son **David**, a teaching assistant in the Religious Studies department.

Kevin said, “I won’t claim that LwU has grown to be a particularly large group, but it has been incredibly fun and successful. Everyone involved is sincerely interested in Irish culture, as well as literature in general. The conversation is relaxed and intriguing, and I have

### *Climbing Taxco*

Past the market,  
I ask a slouching woman how to get to the top  
and she says you have to run up there  
promise me you’ll run  
and I do, with the body of old dictator,  
passing a church covered in pastel flowers  
with a rotting janitor laughing at the color  
of my skin, que blanco he says after I tell him  
my name, climb those stairs and go right  
left straight past Genia’s dog with a limp.  
The streets are narrow and I think of you, thirst,  
and how I want to surrender my body to the soreness  
of the workers who must’ve carried rocks to the  
tippy top to build an ever loving Christ  
arms spread as open as the eternal love they wanted  
from the mountain thick with vegetation  
and indifference because whoever conquered it: did.  
When I get to the top, I will spread my mother’s hair  
into the fat air, a swarm of locusts devouring  
nothing, nothing at all and look into the distance  
and see a man dancing, clapping,  
his knee bouncing up and down, higher and stronger  
as if he will live until the end of the day  
and Jesus will finally close his embrace,  
whole, all the silver in Taxco shining all at once.

## Sharing Student Poetry

In an effort to share some of the amazing work Honors College students are doing, *Areté*’s staff has selected a poem from **Reyes Ramirez**’s (’12, Political Science and Creative Writing) undergraduate thesis entitled, *Ni Fu Ni Fa or, The Continuing Catharsis of Tomas de la Paz*.

Do you want to share your work? Send ideas to [lningrassia@uh.edu](mailto:lningrassia@uh.edu).

# The Karim Family Legacy

Siblings **Jason, Justin, and Alicia Karim** flourished within the Honors community, at least partially because it provided a “sense of family...unlike any other college that I’ve seen,” remarked Alicia (’12, Operations Management and Marketing), the youngest sibling. The Karims expanded their Honors legacy when Justin met and married fellow Honors student **Nadia**.

Oldest sibling Jason (’02, Interdisciplinary Studies), an algebra teacher and volleyball coach, chose Honors because he knew it would enrich his education. “I also loved the idea of a college within a college; being a part of the Honors College allowed me to get a very ‘small school’ experience,” Jason said. “The professors and students knew each other, the class sizes were small, and it felt like being a member of a very close family.”

On the other hand, when it comes to family, Alicia said she “chose Honors despite my siblings going there, rather than for it.” Originally she visited other schools—ones she thought she preferred. When Alicia attended the Honors open house, however, she quickly changed her mind. “The attention I received from the professors and the programs available were unlike any other schools,” she said. It seems to have worked out for Alicia, who graduated from Honors and the Bauer Honors Program in May. As she said, “After a week here on campus, I never looked back and have always been extremely happy with my decision.”

Justin (’06, Marketing) and Nadia (’09, Accounting) met as Honors College students on the University of Houston forensic team. Nadia recalled, “We were



Justin and Nadia in Italy

assigned to each other as debate partners, and many weeks on the road made us tolerate each others’ presence, then we became friends.” As it worked out, Honors kept pushing Justin and Nadia together, first for an Honors photo shoot and then on an Honors study abroad trip to Italy a few weeks later. “Now that we’ve been married three years and returned to Italy for our honeymoon, the Honors College memories and hilarious brochure photo are a great memento of how two random Honors College students fell in love.”

Family and friends are core to what the Karims appreciate about Honors. As Alicia said, “The friendships I’ve made and the mentors I’ve found are things that I will always remember and be grateful for.” Jason agreed, “My favorite thing about Honors would definitely be the students and faculty. I was surrounded by students who had a passion to learn, and the friendships I made helped shape who I am.”

As Jason hints, though, it goes beyond friendships to academics. Alicia said, “The academic preparation has allowed me to secure my dream job straight out of undergrad.” Nadia’s favorite part of Honors was “the freedom of thought and debate that was practiced in the safety of the abandoned basement.” She said, “In **Dr. Price’s** class I felt completely free to completely disagree with my professor without worrying about my grade—in fact, the thrill of the Human Situation was always being passionate about the subject matter. It is a rite of passage that trains you in various logical reasoning styles while exposing you to amazing literature.”

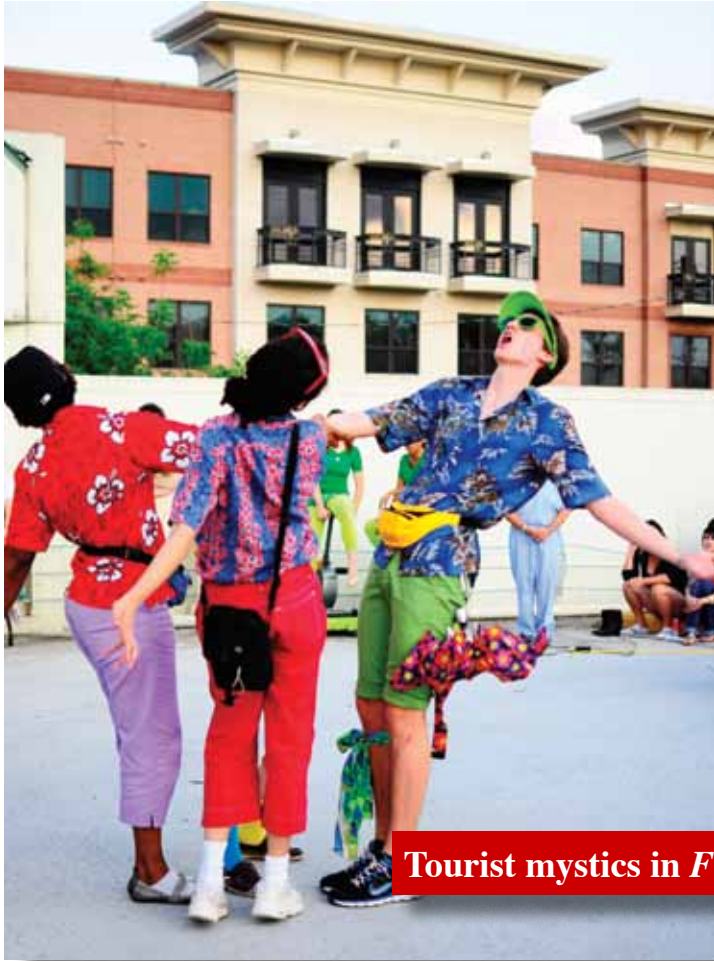
As you might expect, their Honors experiences affected how they have approached their careers. Nadia said, “The trials of the Honors College definitely

expanded my ability to succeed in graduate school and in my career.” Jason, the teacher, “tries every day to inspire my students and push them to discover things about themselves, like the Honors College did for me.” And Alicia, who wasn’t even sure what she wanted after college, has already had both of her “dream jobs before even graduating—one while a student and the other already secured upon graduation.” She believes that is due to the kind of education Honors provides. “In every interview, the Honors College has come up and stood out... Not only does Honors give you the technical knowledge that you need, but it also teaches the arts of written and verbal communication and creative thinking that differentiate you in the workplace.”

With so much connection to the College, it’s no surprise that the family stays involved. Jason was proud when his siblings followed him to the Honors College, but appreciated it even more because it “allowed me to stay up-to-date with what is happening in Honors, and I have been able to see the incredible progress that the Honors College has made over the last 15 years.” Justin and Nadia were excited to meet with the Honors crew when they were in Phoenix for the National Collegiate Honors Council meeting last year. Nadia said, “thanks to the Honors dinner, I’ve already met some alumni within my city and at the company where I work!” Unsurprising to those who know her, Alicia is even more enthusiastic. On the practical side, she said, “I plan on being an active part of the alumni program and coming back to help students prepare for the next steps after graduation.” She had to add: “I also plan on being at as many UH football games as possible! GO COOGS!”



Jason and Alicia Karim



Tourist mystics in *Frogs*

## From Internship to Thesis Award

I have to admit, I signed up for the creative work (CW) minor two years ago because it sounded like it would be little work. Now I've come to realize that no other program could have been more challenging. My internship with Inprint, Houston's literary nonprofit organization, was the first way the minor made a great impact on my studies. In my two years of work with Inprint, I have met writers like **Salman Rushdie** and **W. S. Merwin**, learned to write grants, and gained experience in marketing.

My coursework for the minor has been varied, allowing me to work with great professors both on campus, like **Dr. John Harvey** and **Dean William Monroe**, and off campus, like Houston blues scholar **Roger Wood**. Courses like Poetics and Performance gave me a vocabulary to analyze the arts, and the capstone course, Artists and Their Regions (AaTR), taught me the value of place when creating something new. Last fall, I presented about the AaTR experience with **Megan Harrington** and Dr. Harvey at the National Collegiate Honors Conference. Then, with Megan and **Reyes Ramirez**, I've been involved in founding the undergraduate literary journal *The Aletheia*, which gave me invaluable experience in publishing.

I completed my minor's coursework with my senior honors thesis—*The Dirty South: Personal Essays and Lyric Interludes*—in which I wrote a collection of essays concerning my relationship with the South, my family, and my identity. **Dr. Kimberly Meyer**, a CCW and Honors professor with whom I had wanted to work for most of my time at the Honors College, directed my thesis. I know that the ideas from my collection—place, alienation, homecoming—came from the courses I took for the minor. I am thrilled that my thesis won an Outstanding Thesis Award, and I owe a great deal of its success to this program. All of these experiences have truly enriched me, not just as a student, but as a reader, writer, and person.

by Kristen Flack

## The Dionysia Experience

I first learned about the creative work (CW) minor in **Dr. John Harvey's** Human Situation discussion group, where he showed us the connections that art and culture have with the world around us. It was only my second semester in Honors, but I was hooked.

After signing up for the CW minor right away, I was part of the first Poetics and Performance class. We embarked on a journey into art and experience that taught me to let my art create itself. During the course, I created what I think is my best film so far, the short film *Aegisthus: Story Untold*, which gives poetic voice to a character in Greek history who had never been given more than a supporting role.

My experience with the Center for Creative Work was most enriched through the *Dionysia*, where I worked as production manager for *Agamemnon* and *The Frogs*, and submitted films for two

Ekphrastic Arts festivals.

The *Dionysia* was the ultimate culmination of a CCW experience: like everything in the CCW, we got involved and made it our own. Actors helped create and shape their characters. Students interacted with great works and the city. This year's show brought the performances to two locations outside of the University—to Fitzgerald's in the Heights and to the roof of Khon's Bar in Midtown. Staging the show in these locations forced the cast and crew to be versatile and to interact with the world around us.

While the *Dionysia* experience is unique for each student, as production manager, I was intimately involved in the creative process, from assisting student actors to making the productions come to life with the design and creation of sets. For example, I assisted the Eleusinian Choros (shown above) in *Frogs* with creating their

mystery ritual, which formed the basis for all their choreography and movement. I gained a much deeper knowledge of the works we were performing through interpretation and close readings, and came to understand the intricacies involved in such a major undertaking as we dealt with set design, location changes, budget concerns, and overall organization.

The CW minor has taught me to understand how art and monuments can be artistic representations of historical events. The way we understand history is directly affected by the reactions to and design of these artworks. As a perfect extension of this understanding and everything I've done in the CCW, I'll be studying the history of memory, dealing specifically with monuments, memorials, and memoirs, in an interdisciplinary graduate program in History and Culture at Drew University in the fall.

by Jana Trojanowski

## Minors and Programs: **The Human Situation**



**Robert Cremins on the Irish Theater**

### **Two Teams, Coming Together**

Heraclitus is a name that must have been heard many times over the years in the lecture halls of the Human Situation, our yearlong Great Books sequence. He's the pre-Socratic philosopher famous for saying, "You could not step twice into the same river." It's a truth that applies to Human Sit itself: no two semesters of the course are ever the same. Even though there are some fixtures—a Homeric epic in the fall, a Shakespeare play in the spring—the bi-annual realignment of texts, themes, and teams ensures the vitality of the experience for both students and faculty.

And there are ways of enriching the Human Sit experience that go beyond the page. This past academic year has given us some great examples of that. In the fall (as we talked about in detail in the last issue of *Areté*), Team Omega's "Profblog" flourished, with many meditations on the theme of mortality. We'd begun the semester with the Egyptian *Book of the Dead* and, thanks to a canny plan devised by Human Sit coordinator **Dr. Richard Armstrong**, we ended the term with a summation lecture and a visit to the treasure-laden King Tut exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts. Looking at a gleaming pair of gold slippers once worn by the Boy King himself, I thought to

myself that we'd brought our students very close to walking a mile in the shoes of one of the characters we'd discussed in class.

In the spring, we used Team Alpha's home base of Cemo Hall for a couple of joint-team ventures. In early April, I gave a talk on the history of Dublin's Abbey Theatre to contextualize a cluster of Irish plays that were appearing on our syllabi and on stages around town. Both teams were studying the poetry of **W. B. Yeats**, one of the founders of the Abbey (Ireland's national theater); Yeats' own writing is much concerned with "players and the painted stage." We made "field trips" to see work by two of Ireland's most exciting contemporary playwrights: *The Seafarer* by **Conor McPherson** at the Alley, and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* by **Martin McDonagh** at University of Houston's own Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center. Moreover, **Dr. David Mikics** worked with Houston's innovative Catastrophic Theatre Company to bring students to see **Samuel Beckett's** modern masterpiece *Endgame*, and to bring actor **Greg Dean**, who'd brilliantly played Hamm in the production, to campus. Beckett was on Omega's reading list, while Alpha examined a very different (but equally brilliant in terms of its linguistic sensibility) 20th-century classic: **Brian Friel's** *Translations*.

In late April, Professor Mikics was also instrumental in bringing acclaimed teacher and writer **Dr. Mark Edmundson** to the University of Houston for a series of lectures, including a special presentation to Human Sit students entitled "Self and Soul: The Mortal Dilemma." As Self and Soul was Team Omega's theme for the spring semester, this was a timely talk indeed. The students were energized by Edmundson's exhortation to spend more time, in both our imaginative and literal lives, in a soulful mode. Edmundson, whose sensibility encompasses Shakespeare and rock'n'roll, Freud and the Gospels, defined soul as a "state of

being" whose gifts, to both oneself and others, include courage, compassion, and contemplation. It was a refreshing lecture.

And in the fall we'll step into the refreshing waters of another Human Situation. For both teams this is going to be an "*Iliad* year." The towering presence on the reading list of that great "poem of force," as **Simone Weil** labeled it, is calling forth a coordinated creative responsive from the Honors College and its allies. In 2011, choreographer **Jennifer Sommers** and Center for Creative Work director **John Harvey** collaborated very successfully on a production of *Agamemnon*, the centerpiece of that year's *Dionysia* festival. For spring 2013, they are working on an adaptation of the *Iliad* that will be both a choral dance piece and a testimony of how war has affected the lives of both Honors College students and their families.

From Troy to the War on Terror, the Human Situation experience is eternal, and ever changing.

*by Robert Cremins*

### **The Human Situation Faculty**

The Human Situation's cast of characters continues to evolve. Last year we added professors **Jonathan Zecher** and **Robert Liddell**. Zecher's expertise is in Christian theology, and Liddell's is fiction writing, and both met the challenge of the daunting syllabus with grace.

This fall we welcome **Jesse Rainbow**, a Harvard-trained Biblical scholar and Honors alumnus, and **Marcel Widzisz**, a Greek scholar who has taught at the University before, as well as at Rice University and St. John's College.

"We are fielding the strongest teams ever this fall," said Human Situation coordinator **Richard Armstrong**. "The balance of teaching talent, types of expertise, and styles of lecturing should make this one of the best years in our history to go through the Human Sit experience."

## Minors and Programs: **Medicine & Society**

### **Gene Harper**

Medicine & Society student **Gene Harper** took what some might view as the long way around to preparing for medical school—he just views it as a “set of experiences that connected as a pathway.”

A native Houstonian who graduated from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, Gene first came to the University of Houston as a percussion major in 1990. Success with his music encouraged him to move to New York to play professionally and work on a recording contract. The attacks on September 11, 2001, had a deep impact on Gene, however, inspiring him to join the Marine Corps. After training at Camp Pendleton and serving multiple tours of duty, Gene returned to Houston and worked in technology, but his degree “nagged at him as an unfinished chapter.”

Thanks to the GI Bill, Gene returned to school; thanks to all the experiences that had shaped his path, he came back knowing he was interested in medicine and anthropology. Through his involvement with Alpha Epsilon Delta, the premedical honor society, Gene was introduced to the Medicine & Society program soon after his return to college. Since joining the Honors College—and the Medicine & Society (MedSoc) minor—in early 2010, Gene has enjoyed the “intellectual challenge and academic immersion” he’s found here. In particular, Gene appreciates the way his MedSoc classes and activities “cross-

### **Topping 100**

The Medicine & Society minor has grown from its first year in 2005 to serve 108 students this year. Program coordinator **Dr. Helen Valier** thinks the growth is spurred by “the students being positive and spreading the program through word of mouth.” She believes that having more great students attracts more faculty and staff interest and support, which in turn creates more exposure and opportunities for students in the minor.

### **More new classes**

In addition to the new Death & Dissection course described in the winter issue of *Areté*, Medicine & Society is also launching a medical humanities class in conjunction with the graduate program at UTMB. The month-long course will

pollinate” with classes in his anthropology major. Readings in Medicine and Society, for example, offered views on a mix of historical and modern issues that showed him the state of health care discourse. Another favorite experience in the MedSoc program was the Clinical Application of Anatomy and Physiology course he took from **Drs. Kathryn Peek** and **Helen Valier**. In addition to challenging him and showing him the “vastness of what [he doesn’t] know,” the course offered him the tools to “dig out of” that hole and taught him that

explore the various disciplines that make up the medical humanities and apply their various perspectives to three case studies. The medical humanities graduate faculty at UTMB suggested their interest in adding good undergraduates to their graduate classes, so this summer’s class will act as the pilot of a program they hope to expand with more classes in future semesters.

Another course being offered for Medicine & Society credit for the first time is “A Crime without a Name”: 20th Century Genocides, a multidisciplinary capstone course being offered by **Professor Irene Guenther** this fall. The course will examine the emergence, development, causes, uses, and responses to genocide and ethnic cleansing in the 20th century.

the “language of medicine is decipherable.” He learned to love the problem-based learning that forced “synthesis instead of regurgitation.” He said, “it was very Socratic-feeling: gritty, real, and visceral.”

One of the benefits of the Medicine & Society program is help connecting with internships and co-curricular experiences. Gene has shadowed a physician at UTMB in Galveston for the past four years, worked as a peer mentor with the Wounded Warrior Project, and volunteered at the veterans hospital. His experiences outside the classroom combine with his classes to support his interest in the patient illness narrative, where he’s aware of the “messiness and ambiguity outside of the textbooks” and how these facets of family, culture, and context contribute to the entire patient and to appropriate treatment choices. As Professor Valier said, “Gene has been one of the most outstanding students the program has ever had because of his dedication to his studies. His ability to integrate course materials with clinical experiences is very valuable in class dialog.”

Gene hopes to serve the Texas community and bring his experiences, insights into human behavior, and interest in how humans create and experience disease to bear as he plans for graduation, the MCAT, and medical school.



**Gene Harper connects classroom and clinical through the Medicine & Society minor.**

# Minors and Programs: Office of Undergraduate Research

## Spring Research Symposium

On April 12th, the Office of Undergraduate Research hosted an inaugural spring showcase event, the Spring Research Symposium. “We were essentially testing the waters with this event,” stated **Karen Weber**, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Over the years, we have received feedback from our student researchers that they would like us to coordinate a spring event, in addition to our fall research day, so we decided to give it a try—and we’re glad we did.” What resulted was over

“Research is a process of discovery.”

75 student participants, representing 21 different departments, showcasing oral and poster presentations at the event. For pictures and highlights, visit [TheHonorsCollege.com/SpringURDay](http://TheHonorsCollege.com/SpringURDay).

Given the success of the spring research day, next year’s event is already on the calendar for April 11, 2013. The Office of Undergraduate Research plans to devise a way for the 2013 event to complement other activities taking place in Honors, such as the internship program in Medicine & Society, the ePortfolio program, and the proposed Leadership Studies minor.

## SURF 2012

A record 57 students are currently participating in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) 2012 program, a group that represents 10 colleges and 28 different departments. The full-time summer research program provides a \$3500 scholarship to undergraduates from all fields and disciplines, and also includes a lecture series and excursions for the participants. This year the lecture series will include presentations by **Dr. Hanadi Rifai**, from Civil and Environmental Engineering, and **Jillian Conrad**, from the School of Art, who will discuss the nature of the research they conduct in their respective areas. Also, **Dr. Jian Liu**, from Health and Human Performance, and **Dr. Daniel Frigo**, from the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling, are hosting tours of their lab facilities for the SURF students. Other highlights include **Dr.**

**Shiv Halasyamani**’s lecture on research ethics, a faculty panel on considering and applying to graduate and professional school, and a student panel on how to make the most of your research experience. Faculty participation throughout the summer program is integral in enabling the students to become responsible researchers and future scholars. Professor Halasyamani, from the Department of Chemistry, shared, “Research is a process of discovery in which students will learn that experiments and protocols rarely work as planned. It is essential that they

learn early on to present their results to their advisor honestly and not simply tell them what they want to hear. This will help ensure that their research contributions are as valuable as possible, while providing them with the most true-to-life exposure to research as a career path.”

## Faculty Awards

There will be two new faculty awards offered in spring 2013 by the Office:

the Early Career Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research and the Lifetime Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research. These two awards will replace the one previous award offered to faculty since 2006. The early career award celebrates the mentorship efforts at the University of Houston of junior faculty who are in the earlier stages of their professions. The Lifetime Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research is a career award for individuals whose efforts in undergraduate mentorship at the University of Houston have been exceptional over many years.

The awards are intended to recognize demonstrated excellence in supporting undergraduate researchers, to encourage mentoring relationships with undergraduate students, and to convey the campus’ high regard for such contributions made by the faculty of the academic and research community. Faculty members who consistently advise and work one-on-one with students on personalized, creative, enriching projects outside of the classroom are an ideal fit for these awards. Specific information on applying for these awards will be available online in August.

Architecture students **Alejandro Lara, Rose Lee, Meredith Chavez, Andre Simapranata, and Ian Spencer** present posters at the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 12.



### *Phronesis* Lectures, from Economics to Fairness

This spring, the *Phronesis* Program concluded the “Progressivism and Conservatism in America” series with a lecture by **William Galston**, a former advisor to President Clinton, and introduced a new series titled “Economic Crisis: Causes, Consequences, and Remedies,” which welcomed guest lecturers **Menzie Chinn**, of the University of Wisconsin and **John Allison**, former CEO of Branch Banking and Trust and Professor of Practice at Wake Forest University’s School of Business. Audiences at the events were large and involved, and reactions to the lectures were thoughtful. **Kelly Campbell**, *Phronesis* Fellow and economics major, said that in both lecture series, “in a logical and straightforward way, the speakers presented the basic errors of many politicians and economists alike.” This lecture series will continue in the fall; the first lecturer will be **Stephen Rose** from Georgetown, who will speak about income inequality in the U.S.; **Lawrence White**, from George Mason University, will speak about his book *The Clash of Economic Ideas* in the spring.

Capping off the academic year, Lence Master Teacher **Robert Bartlett** brought the dialogues about American



Lence Master Teacher Dr. Robert Bartlett

but also some of the behind-the-scenes anecdotes that contributed humor and color to the event.

As part of his residency, Professor Bartlett also gave a lecture on ancient and modern thinkers’ attempts to address the problem of chance. The residency concluded with the Lence dinner, at which Bartlett’s keynote on the Five Essential Questions of Liberal Education discussed

vexing questions, including: What is a just tax code? What is the right structure of social benefits? Should self-interest be our guide or do we have duties to our fellow citizens? Which punishments are deserved for what crimes? Does our constitutional order achieve political justice? This lecture series brings speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds and points of view to the University of Houston to explore the question of fairness, including **Paul Woodruff** (ancient philosophy at UT Austin), **Ruth Grant** (political theory at Duke University), **John Tomasi** (political theory at Brown University), and **Thomas Hurka** (moral philosophy at the University of Toronto). Other upcoming planned speakers include author and columnist **Anne Applebaum**, who will speak on totalitarianism, and **Michael Sandel**, a well-known political theorist from Harvard University. Finally, in October, *Phronesis* is co-sponsoring with the Department of Political Science an event on the civil rights movement at the University of Houston, featuring **Attica Locke**’s novel *Blackwater Rising*, and a discussion with **Gene Locke**, a leader of the movement at UH, and others involved with civil rights at the University and in the city.

by Safa Ansari-Bayegan,  
Kelly Campbell, and Emily Zinsitz

### “He brought the ancient perspective to life.”

conservatism and progressivism and the current economic crisis back to their theoretical roots in a discussion of his new translation of *Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics* with co-translator and director of the *Phronesis* Program, **Dr. Sue Collins**.

The topic, translating the *Ethics* in the Modern Age, provided insight into the process of translation, the careful and sometimes contentious selection of particular English terms that best embody ancient ideas, and the effort to make the translation literal while maintaining readability for the modern audience. The talk, including an extended question and answer session with the translators, was particularly effective, allowing students and professors to speak directly with Bartlett and Collins and drawing out not only the specifics of the translation,

the importance of liberal education in taking up the questions of love, death, justice, friendship, and God at the heart of human experience. *Phronesis* Fellow **Emily Zinsitz** said, “In his lectures, he brought the ancient perspective to life, showing its relevance to the issues that challenge the political and academic world today.”

In the fall, *Phronesis* and the Hobby Center of Public Policy will kick off a new lecture series titled “What’s Fair? A Lecture Series on Justice and Desert in America.” A great debate is underway in America today about what’s fair: from economic policy and political disputes to educational reforms and the courts, Americans disagree about fairness, asking who deserves what and on what grounds. This debate involves many

# Studying Abroad: FEET

*Continued*

resonated with me most strongly. We look forward to seeing the Arc de Triomphe and a cruise on the Seine tomorrow!

Catrina: Venice

In scenic Venice, even the vaporetto rides from Murano, Burano, Cimitero, and the mainland were memorable experiences. We saw a neat demonstration of glassblowing in Murano—a long and hot process! We were grateful to end our day of island-hopping with a delicious scoop of peach gelato by the Rialto Bridge.

Catrina: Naples

After getting thoroughly lost within the first half-hour of our arrival, we finally found our hostel and settled in. We enjoyed a pleasant evening walking along the coast—with incredible views of the neighboring

islands—and eating genuine Neapolitan pizza!

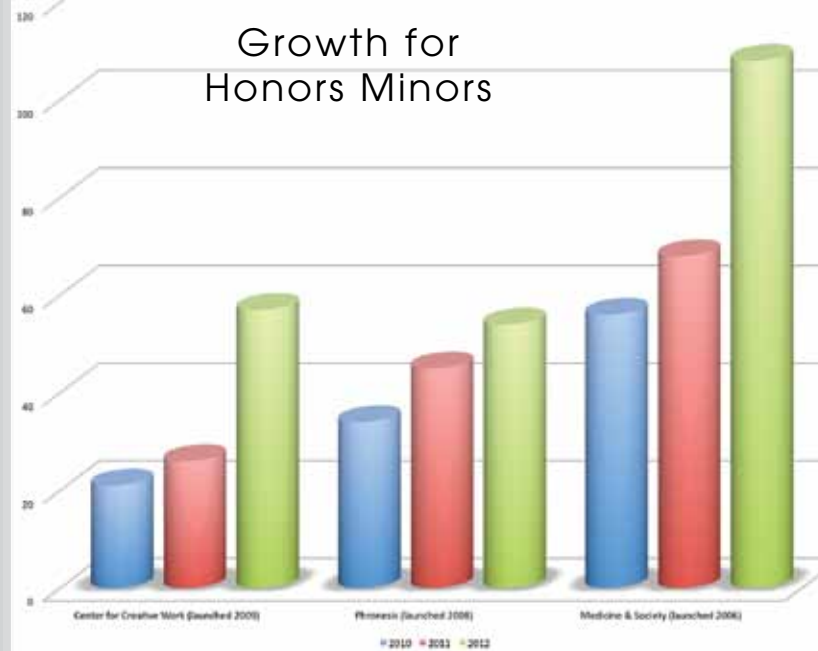
Frances: Pompeii

Pompeii was truly a learning moment for us. I knew the history and the significance of the ruins, but seeing the more intimate details of the site was exquisite. We walked a large portion of the ruins and cobblestone roads, but knew we would not see everything. I was most impressed with the Roman baths—they had steam rooms! Inside, the ceilings were grooved so that condensation would not drip on people as they were using the facilities. Even in 7th century BCE people experienced the same problems as today.

Frances: Rome

Rome is such a great city. The people are nice, and it is safe to walk around at all

## Growth for Honors Minors



### Honors Minors Grow

The three existing Honors minors have each taken big jumps in the past year. The success of the programs bolsters support in the College and across the University for the new initiatives and minors (see page 8) launching this year.

times of the day. We have really enjoyed the sightseeing here, especially the Trevi Fountain! I also was impressed by the Borghese Gallery. Gian Lorenzo Bernini's sculptures particularly caught my attention. I think my favorite sculpture is *Daphne and Apollo*. Daphne changes into a tree as a madly in love Apollo chases her. Overall, an enchanting experience.



## Honors Student Contributors

Articles in *Areté* are written by Honors faculty, staff, and students; student articles have bylines. Meet the student contributors below.

**Safa Ansari-Bayegan** is a political science and philosophy double major with a minor in Phronesis: A Program in Politics and Ethics.

**Catrina Kim** is a piano performance major and a Phronesis Fellow.

**Reyes Ramirez** was a co-founder of The Aletheia and recently graduated from the Honors College with a BA in political science and creative writing, and a minor in creative work. He will be pursuing an MFA in creative writing in the fall.

**Kelly Campbell** is an economics major and a Phronesis Fellow.

**Krystofer Redden** is majoring in political science and history with minors in English literature and Phronesis.

**Kristen Flack** graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in creative writing and a creative work minor. She is currently working for Inprint and WITS and plans to apply for graduate school in the fall.

**Colleen Seitz** is a senior marketing major and European studies minor. She has studied abroad with the Honors College in Ireland and Northern Europe.

**Frances Guerrero** is a junior in the college of Hotel and Restaurant Management and an Honors College Ambassador.

**Jana Trojanowski** graduated from the Honors College in May 2012 with degrees in history and psychology and a minor in creative work.

**Adrienne Huntsman** is a recent graduate of the Honors College with a BA in political science and a minor in Phronesis. She plans to pursue a Masters in Public Relations in the fall of 2013.

**Emily Zinsitz** is an Honors College Ambassador and a Phronesis Fellow.



# faculty & staff notes

**David Brenner** will be conducting research this summer in Germany thanks to a grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



**Robert Cremins'** short story "The Apprentices" is scheduled to appear in the summer issue of *The Dublin Review*. The story was partly inspired by a myth mentioned in *The Odyssey*, which Cremins taught last fall as part of the Human Situation's Team Omega.

**Sue Collins** was just appointed to the Ross M. Lence Distinguished Teaching Chair in the Department of Political Science. She said, "As a result of Ross' outstanding talent and dedication to the University (he served on virtually every academic committee at the University over his career), a large group of his students raised funds to honor him by endowing a chair in his name in the political science department. Ross was the original holder of the Ross M. Lence Distinguished Teaching Chair; how many professors have an endowed chair funded and named in their honor during their lifetimes? Such was the excellence of Ross Lence."

**Jamie H. Ferguson** is completing a book manuscript, *Faith in the Language: Biblical and Literary Authority in Early Modern English*, on the convergence of biblical hermeneutics and English literature from Tyndale to Donne. In 2011-12, he published articles in *Psalms in the Early Modern World* and other journals. In the summer of 2012, he will participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, "Tudor Books and Readers, 1485-1603," in Antwerp, London, and Oxford, and has been invited to give a plenary address at Oxford in the summer of 2013. He has recently received New Faculty Research and Martha Gano Houston Research Grants and was a finalist in 2012 for the University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award.

**Cynthia Freeland** has been named a Moores Professor in recognition of her outstanding scholarly achievements (including six books and many articles) and her status as a leading figure in the philosophy of art. The John and Rebecca Moores Professors Program honors faculty who have made outstanding contributions in the areas of research, scholarship, creative activities, teaching, and service. The program supports continued excellence by providing funds for individual career development. In addition, Dr. Freeland has posted an Oxford Press blog titled "Laughing in the Art Museum." [blog.oup.com/2012/05/laughing-in-the-art-museum/](http://blog.oup.com/2012/05/laughing-in-the-art-museum/)

**Kimberly Meyer** will have new essays published in *Ploughshares* and *The Kenyon Review*. Another essay, previously published in *Ecotone*, has been selected for Best American Travel Writing 2012. In addition, she has received a month-long fellowship for this summer to the Vermont Studio Center.

**David Mikics** has recently published two pieces in *Tablet*, a Jewish life, arts, and



ideas magazine. His real work though, is keeping up with his son Ariel, below.

[Tabletmag.com/author/david-mikics](http://Tabletmag.com/author/david-mikics)



**Tamler Sommers** was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure.

**Helen Valier** was honored at the Honors College Graduation Banquet with the Student Governing Board's Distinguished Service Award for her work in advising and assisting students in the Medicine & Society program.

**Karen Weber** won the inaugural Staff Award for Distinguished Service to Women from the University of Houston's Commission on Women.

## Welcome New Faculty

Honors alumnus **Jesse Rainbow** ('99, History) will join Honors this fall to teach in the Human Situation. He has just completed his Ph.D. in near eastern languages and civilizations at Harvard University. Also, **Sarah Spring** will join us to direct the new Policy Debate program (see page 8). She comes to us from the University of Iowa where she is completing her Ph.D. in rhetoric. In addition, **George Hawley** and **Jacqueline Hunsicker** will be joining us to teach American government.

# alumni news



**Brian Daly Bastion** ('02, *Chemical Engineering*) took a position as a process engineer with Plant Engineering Services doing maintenance work on site at Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery in the Twin Cities, MN. He

said, "It doesn't sound glamorous but it's fun working in and around the plant, especially dealing with all the snow and negative temperatures (Fahrenheit, that is). Brrr." Brian and his wife **Virginia** ('06, *Psychology*) welcomed their daughter **Marilyn Julia Hailun Daly** in June 2011—she's well on her way to becoming a future Cougar. [bastion05@gmail.com](mailto:bastion05@gmail.com)

**Daniel Brown** ('90, *Chemical Engineering*) and his wife, **Amanda O'Brien**—



**Brown**, welcomed their first child, daughter **Amelia Mary Brown**, on January 26th, 2012. Daniel was also recently promoted to partner in the Litigation Department at Latham & Watkins LLP in the firm's New York office. [aobrien4444@hotmail.com](mailto:aobrien4444@hotmail.com)

**Michelle Brown** ('99, *Interdisciplinary Studies*) has been teaching for 13 years, the past three years in Dickinson ISD, where she teaches Algebra I and Advanced Math to eighth graders at McAdams Junior High. She was named the 2012 Teacher of the Year for the District in the secondary education category. [brownatalus@yahoo.com](mailto:brownatalus@yahoo.com)

**Pamela Klekar Burns** ('04, *French and Political Science*) earned her Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas this May. Her work in alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles as the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities

Coordinator has recently been showcased on the PBS television series *MotorWeek*. [pburns@nctcog.org](mailto:pburns@nctcog.org)



**M.H. "Butch" Cersonsky** ('76, *Political Science*) was the Course Director for the State Bar of Texas "Collections 101 Course." He led a panel discussion on the collections process, comparing and contrasting consumer versus commercial collections issue, and made presentations on the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Post Judgment Collection issues. On the following day he made a presentation on attorney's fees in commercial and collections cases at the 10th Annual Collections and Creditors' Rights Course. [MHCersonsky@law-crg.com](mailto:MHCersonsky@law-crg.com)

**Joe Christianson**, ('01, *Mathematics*) was awarded the CFA Charter in the

## In Memoriam

Honors College alumna **Heather Bonser-Bishop** ('93, English) drowned in a tragic accident on April 28, 2012, while paddleboarding with her family.



Heather leaves behind her husband, John, and daughters Greta and Elia. A celebration of Heather's life was held May 20 at Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, in Bayside, California; friends in the Houston area also gathered to record memories of Heather to share with her family.

Heather joined Honors on a full scholarship in 1989 and lived on the 3rd floor of Law Hall, graduating in 1993 with a degree in English. After graduation, she traveled on a Rotary International Scholarship to Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, where she earned a degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. After returning to California, she earned an MBA from Humboldt State University.

As a regionally and nationally recognized expert in rural health, Heather worked to increase access to

health and human services for people of all economic levels as executive director of the North Coast Clinics Network and later as a consultant to non-profit organizations.

Heather's husband John shared, "Heather often spoke of the great time she had at Houston. She bonded with her classmates and held them and that time in her life close to her heart. From what she told me, I don't think a person could have a more ideal college experience. She was encouraging our oldest daughter Greta to consider Houston for college."

He said, "Heather was always all about community, and the community she found at the University of Houston verified her faith in it. She felt supported and was grateful for the opportunity to attend. I know her time there helped shape the woman I married into the compassionate, generous person we love, and for that we are very grateful."

Heather with her daughters Greta and Elia

# alumni news

summer of 2011. The investment credential is awarded to the business professionals who complete the rigorous CFA program. Recently, he joined BlackRock Private Investors as an analyst in the Houston office. [jwc5115@hotmail.com](mailto:jwc5115@hotmail.com)

**Aris Economon** ('89, *Economics*) and **Hanneke Faber** ('90, *Journalism*) will move back to Geneva, Switzerland, in August, where Hanneke will be the Procter & Gamble Global VP on Pantene, Head & Shoulders, and Herbal Essences. As part of P&G's deal as Olympic Games sponsors, Hanneke will also be in London to coordinate the press events surrounding the athletes she signed for P&G advertising,



including Michael Phelps and Natalie Coughlin from the U.S. Aris said, "The kids are excited to return to their old school and enjoy the good skiing again." [economon@bluewin.ch](mailto:economon@bluewin.ch)

**Rebecca Ginsburg** ('03, *Industrial Engineering*) was promoted in January to Macro Distributor Supply Coordinator with Shell. In April, she moved to College Station with her boyfriend, though she says, "I still bleed Cougar Red." Becky was also honored on June 1st with the Distinguished Young Engineering Alumnus Award for her work as a member of the board, the scholarship committee, and helping with the annual Homecoming Fundraiser. [rebecca.ginsburg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.ginsburg@gmail.com)

**John Grimmett** ('11, *Music*) has been selected to participate in the American Opera Initiative sponsored by the Washington National Opera. He will be

writing a libretto for composer **Liam Wade** for a chamber opera that will be performed in November 2012 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. His musical, *Odette*, will also receive an off-off-Broadway production this summer as a part of the 2012 New York Avant Garde Arts Festival sponsored by Variations Theatre Group. John is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at New York University. [jtgrimmatt@gmail.com](mailto:jtgrimmatt@gmail.com)

**Mike Hon** ('92, *Classical Studies*) was named Infrastructure Delivery Manager for American Mega Data Centers at BP in March. [lawhall@webologist.com](mailto:lawhall@webologist.com)

**Morad Kabiri** ('04, *Industrial Engineering*) was recently promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager at the City of Friendswood. [mkabiri@ci.friendswood.tx.us](mailto:mkabiri@ci.friendswood.tx.us)

**Todd Klekar** ('06, *Kinesiology*) earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Texas Woman's University (Houston Center) in May 2011. He is currently employed as a physical therapist at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) Memorial Hermann. Todd will begin the Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency Program offered through TIRR this summer. [tkdbluetiger@aol.com](mailto:tkdbluetiger@aol.com)



**Tina Lee** ('98, *Anthropology*) accepted a job at University of Wisconsin—Stout as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Tina and her husband, **Damon Wilkinson** ('95, *Management Information Systems*), moved in July 2011 from Brooklyn, N.Y.,

to Menomonee, W.I., as part of the job change. In September 2011, they welcomed second child **Owen Jack Wilkinson** to the family. Big sister **Evelyn** is supportive, calling him "my Owen." Damon continues his work as a computer consultant to law firms for HBRConsulting—the same job he has held since graduation. [tinalee85281@yahoo.com](mailto:tinalee85281@yahoo.com) [dwilkinson@hbrconsulting.com](mailto:dwilkinson@hbrconsulting.com)



**Joshua Park** ('11, *Biology*) was accepted into the dental program at the University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston. [draider777@yahoo.com](mailto:draider777@yahoo.com)

**Elizabeth Shepard** ('02, *History*) and **Jason Richard** joyfully welcomed the safe arrival of their daughter **Vivienne Rose** on May 1, 2012. [eashepard@gmail.com](mailto:eashepard@gmail.com)

**Saba Syed** ('08, *Pharmacy*) was promoted to Pharmacy Manager at Walgreens in March 2012. [sabasyed08@yahoo.com](mailto:sabasyed08@yahoo.com)

**Christine Wisch** ('10, *Music Education and Spanish*) is graduating with an MA in Musicology from Indiana University and will begin her Ph.D. in Musicology in the fall. She has been awarded a full five-year fellowship that includes opportunities to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She will continue to play violin in the Columbus (IN) Symphony Orchestra.

(1) Baby Marilyn with dad Brian Daly Bastion. (2) Daniel Brown and Amanda O'Brien-Brown with new daughter Amelia. (3) Michelle Brown after winning the Dickinson ISD Teacher of the Year award. (4) The Economon Family. (5) Todd Klekar and mother Janet Klekar with Pamela Klekar Burns. (6) Evelyn Wilkinson with baby brother Owen.

# Great Conversation

As you saw in the cover story of the winter issue of *Areté*, it was twenty years ago that **Jane Cizik** ('83, Spanish and Honors College Advisory Board Chair) and Honors College founding dean **Ted Estess** embarked on a journey that would simultaneously raise scholarship funds for the Honors program and awareness of the exceptional leadership and faculty that Honors—and the University—has to offer.

Each year, the event has set new standards, raising more money and expanding the scope of the conversations. This year was no exception. Chaired by **Deborah Brochstein** and **Connie Simmons Taylor** ('91, English), and honoring Jane Cizik, the 20th anniversary event brought together over 350 people in conversation on March 28 at the Houston Country Club. Attendees feasted on



36 conversations about fashion, India, politics, art, culture, and architecture. The evening's lively emcee, advisory board member **Steve Smith**, kept the opening ceremonies right on schedule before assuming his duties as a conversationalist.

The crowd celebrated the generosity of the underwriters, who raised a record \$250,000 for student scholarship support. The Honors College Advisory Board also



supported the event in a big way, with 100 percent of the members donating to support the event, solidifying the importance of the College's primary annual fundraiser.

While guests enjoyed their meals and colloquia, **President and Chancellor Renu Khator**, resplendent in a traditional sari, and **Dean Bill Monroe** made their way through the rooms to greet each guest and enjoy the lively discussions. As the night drew to a close, Steve Smith again took to the podium to thank the guests for their thoughtful and engaged participation in the night's discussions.

The Honors College staff published an anniversary book, *20 Years of Great Conversations*, as a special memento of the evening. The book included photos from all 20 years of the event, as well as letters from Cizik, Monroe, Estess, alumna **Delaine Foss** ('94, English), and Honors professor **Dr. Cynthia Freeland**, showing how the event brings together the town and the gown, the students and the faculty, and the past and the future. The book also provides a record of—and gratitude for—the event chairs, supporters, donors, and conversationalists who have made the past 20 years of the event a template and an inspiration for the gala's next 20 years.

This year's event garnered some media coverage, with photographs and stories in *CultureMap*, the *University of Houston Magazine*, and *Houston Lifestyles & Homes* magazine. We hope this coverage continues to help us increase interest in the event throughout the community,

bringing more new people into the long-running, successful experiment that is *The Great Conversation*. After all, *The Great Conversation* draws its name from, and embodies the overarching goals of, the Honors College: to foster thoughtfulness about and care for the world by engaging people in disciplined conversation about things that matter.

## Fall Alumni Events

Make plans now to attend our fall alumni events. In August, the Honors College sponsors the annual Fall Convocation. Held on August 30, this event launches the academic year for the entire campus. As always, we invite all Honors alumni to meet our incoming students during the event and to join us at The Den afterward.

Homecoming 2012 is on November 10. Mark your calendars and watch for more details about the Honors Homecoming events, coming soon.

On October 4 and December 6, the Alumni Association will sponsor social events—stay tuned to the alumni web site at [TheHonorsCollege.com/alumni](http://TheHonorsCollege.com/alumni) for details and news of other events.

Finally, please save the date for next year's *Great Conversation*, to be held on March 27, 2013.

Stay in touch with us at  
[alumni@honors.uh.edu](mailto:alumni@honors.uh.edu).

# Donor Honor Roll

The University of Houston Honors College would like to thank the donors for this year's 20th Anniversary of The Great Conversation.

## Platinum

Robert and Jane ('83) Cizik  
Main Street Capital  
The Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation  
Matthew ('00) and Tamara ('99) Steele

## Gold

Jeff Dodd ('76) and Susan ('79) Ohsfeldt  
Ed ('93) and Michelle Noack  
Waste Connections of Texas—  
Benson Henry

## Mentor

Lynne and Bill Bonham and  
Catherine Campbell Brock ('84) and  
Dr. Gary Brock ('96)  
Tom and Fran Callahan and  
M. Truman ('50) and Rebecca Arnold  
Kim ('94) and Michael ('94) Gapinski  
Steve Hecht ('88, '95) and Deborah Brochstein  
Karen ('95) and Andrew ('95) Webster

## Philosopher

Briana J. Bassler ('04), Ray A. Hafner ('05), and  
Kathie Bassler  
Rev. Kylyn Taylor and  
Mrs. Connie Simmons Taylor ('91)

## Explorer

Gerald ('93, '98) and Olga ('95) Balboa  
Sara ('85) and Mark Bettencourt and  
Steve and Vicki Smith  
David Brinkley  
Tim ('97) and Michelle ('99) Brown  
Centerpoint Energy  
Sandra and M.H. "Butch" ('76, '79) Cersonsky  
Mary Jo ('58) and Richard Coselli ('55, '58) and  
Moye ('55, '58) and Shirley Wicks

Deloitte  
Christopher Dodd ('07) and  
Alejandro Capetillo ('08)  
Craig ('94) and Tammi Enochs and  
Randel Young ('80) and Patricia White ('78)  
Mrs. Harriett S. Goodman and  
Mrs. Sara E. White  
Tim Headley ('71, '84)  
Clay Hoster ('73)  
Jackson Walker L.L.P.  
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Hanskarl ('03) and Beth ('03) Borck  
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Phyllis Childress  
N. Clegg ('98)  
Paul Colbert ('71)  
Martin ('80) and Terry Cominsky  
Ryan Crane ('94)  
Steve Ding ('05)  
Tommy ('80) and Elaine ('82) Ebner  
Roderick Echols ('90) and  
Andrea C. Lewis Echols ('92)

Aristotle Economon ('89)  
Ted and Sybil Estess  
Martin Fein and Kelli ('04, '09) Cohen Fein  
Delaine J. Foss ('94)  
Raymond T. Garcia ('64, '88)  
Sean Gorman ('85, '88)  
Lynda ('93) and Terry ('75, '80) Hallmark  
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Michael Lore ('90)  
Joycelyn Marek ('78)  
Mary Hale Lovett McLean  
Helen Marie and Bill Monroe  
Ralph S. O'Connor  
Kevin O'Gorman ('89) and  
Susan Hardwick-Smith M.D. ('95)  
Jan and Tom Phipps  
Nehal Rahim ('98)  
Todd ('94) and Lanette Ramey  
Beth Robertson  
Regina Rogers ('70)  
Deborah and Herbert Rothschild Jr.  
Brenda Schroeder  
Deborah Selden ('82, '07)  
Eugenia Senfft Von Pilsach  
Carey C. Shuart  
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Rita Sirrieh ('10)  
Larry Ting ('08)  
Shelton M. Vaughan ('88)  
Trey ('92, '02) and Kimberly ('93) Wilkinson  
Isabel B. and Wallace S. Wilson

## Thank you



**Senior Delisia Price writes in appreciation for her scholarship.**

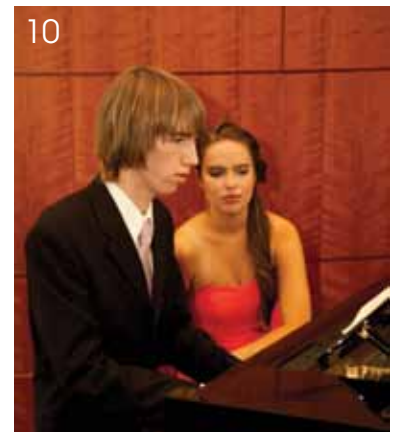
*I wanted to show my gratitude to you for my scholarship award. The Great Conversation Scholarship influenced my life in a huge way. I gained much more than notes and books. During my first semester at the Honors College I learned about myself. Your gift assisted with paying for my Medicine & Society courses. Through this program I found an interest for public health. The scholarship has changed my direction. After completing my undergraduate degree, I now plan on attending graduate school to complete an M.D./Ph.D. program. I will forever be grateful for your gift.*

*Yours Truly,  
Delisia Price*



## Honors in Action

from left to right: (1) Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts Artist-in-Residence Aaron Landsman directed and acted in Aristophanes' *The Frogs* at this year's Dionysia. (2) Visiting author Mark Edmundson spoke three times over the course of April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> on *The Self and the Soul*, *Romantics*, and *Literature*. (3) Dionysia's Alexandra Ulmet as Herakles. (4) Students Adrienne Huntsman, Anju Joes, Seyed Tabatabai, Nick Heisig, and Tyler Swensen spread Cougar pride while in Washington, D.C., for the 2012 national Model Arab League competition. (5) Dan Becker ('79, '83) shared his remembrances of Dr. Ross Lence at this spring's Lence Master Teacher annual dinner. (6) FEET Scholars Frances Guerrero and Catrina Kim pose by the Colosseum while in Rome. (7) The Washington Monument: While competing in the Model Arab League, Honors students Adrienne Huntsman and Caroline Watson won the prestigious Outstanding Advocates award, and Tyler Swensen and Danny Alexander won Honorable Mentions for their delegate work in the Joint Defense committee. (8) This year's Lence Master Teacher Dr. Robert Bartlett led a lively Q&A session with Honors' own Dr. Sue Collins over their popular new translation of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. (9) University President Renu Khator leads a "Table Tour of India" at the 20th anniversary of *The Great Conversation* on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Table guests include Jordan Marye, Matt Steele ('00), Suresh Khator, John Steele, Tyler Crabtree, Tamara Steele ('99), Judy Steele, and Emily Gibson. (10) Honors students Stephen Mulvahill and Mary Strobel Price play the piano during the Lence Master Teacher dinner.





## Honors in Action

(11) Gabby Rodriguez and Renata Maraj by a canal in Amsterdam. (12) Spring Coffeehouse included the performance of Native American dances. (13) Honors alumni Rita Sirrieh ('10), Jonas Chin ('09), and Kristin Laymon ('11) at the Honors cookout at Frontier Fiesta. (14) The Great Conversation Decorations Committee members Brittney Baker, Anju Joes, Markley Rogers, and Nathaniel Stich enjoy the event. (15) Staff and students enjoy the Honors College balcony during the spring end-of-semester party. (16) Professors Jonathan Zecher, Dan Price, and Christine LeVeaux-Haley prepare for their discussions at this year's Great Conversation. (17) Team Creative Work (Emily Zinsitz, Jana Trojanowski, and Jonathan Sanford) show their spirit at the Critical Mix—a new initiative to promote the Honors minors. (18) The Phronesis series on Conservatism and Progressivism brought in speakers including former Clinton advisor William Galston. (19) A Red Tie Affair: Honors students Katie Jewett, Joehan Garcia, Kiernan Cobb, and Kaitlyn Redmond pose at the Spring Fling dance. (20) Honors Scholarship recipients Melissa Silva and Cecelia Cai dine with development director Beth Kungel Borck and the donors who sponsor their scholarships, Scott and Conica Lemond. (21) A Bicycle



Built for Four tours Siena, Italy. (22) New Honors alumnus Andy Ingalls smiles with his parents at this spring's Graduation Banquet. (23) Dr. John Harvey, Damien Maya, Chelsea Cooper, Caleb Coates, Caleb Travis, Manar Hindi, Andrea Pepper, and Rachel Holcombe read the work of Donald Barthelme and traveled to Galveston Island on this year's Artists and Their Regions retreat.



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## Honors College Fall 2012 Calendar

<b>August 30</b>	Fall Convocation, followed by an alumni social at The Den
<b>October 4</b>	Alumni happy hour
<b>October 11</b>	Undergraduate Research Day
<b>October 18</b>	Open House for high school seniors
<b>November 10</b>	Honors Homecoming celebration
<b>November 29</b>	Open House for high school seniors
<b>In November</b>	Send in your updates to <a href="mailto:alumni@honors.uh.edu">alumni@honors.uh.edu</a> for the next issue of <i>Areté!</i>
<b>December 6</b>	Alumni happy hour

**Save the date:**  
*The Great Conversation*  
is March 27, 2013!

For details on alumni events, go to [TheHonorsCollege.com/alumni](http://TheHonorsCollege.com/alumni).  
See all events on the Honors online calendar at [TheHonorsCollege.com/calendar](http://TheHonorsCollege.com/calendar).