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The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston

Vol. 24 No. 2

fall 2009

William Monroe

Dean of The Honors College

Dr. William Monroe, longtime executive associate dean of The Honors College, was named the College's permanent dean on January 20, 2009.

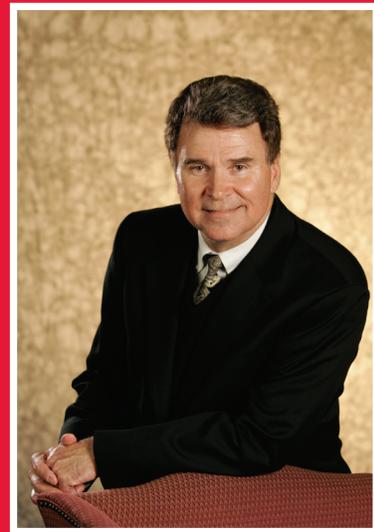
Monroe takes over the post from Dr. Ted Estess, the College's founding dean, who retired from that role at the end of the 2008 academic year.

"The Honors College exists to provide undergraduate students with an intimate, intellectually dynamic environment," Monroe said. "I look forward to working with our students, faculty, staff, and alumni to develop new ways to build this outstanding community."

Monroe is already developing several initiatives that promise to strengthen The Honors College and improve its visibility at the University and throughout the Houston area.

On the curriculum front, he has partnered with College faculty to develop upper-division programs that complement the lower-division honors core courses, including the Human Situation sequence, American history, and government. Among these are the Medicine & Society Program, which is designed for students who plan to pursue a career in healthcare, and *Phronesis*, a program in politics and ethics that should particularly appeal to students considering law school and public administration.

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*Top picture: Dean William (Bill) Monroe
Bottom picture: Bill, Jane Cizik, and
Associate Dean Stuart Long*

Changes in Honors

The Honors College has welcomed several new faculty and staff members during the past 18 months. **Sarah Mohammed Bhojani** (BBA, '03) celebrated her one-year anniversary as Admissions Officer this past February. In addition to overseeing recruitment efforts for the College, Sarah has expanded the role of the admissions officer to include site visits to schools in the Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin areas. **Alison Schmidt Romano** (BA, '87) joined Honors last February in a brand-new position for the College, that of director of communication. Alison's responsibilities include the coordination of printed and electronic publications for Honors, promoting Honors faculty and students in the media, and oversight of the Honors College website, among other duties. As graduates of The Honors College, both Sarah and Alison have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to "give back."



Top picture: Sarah Bhojani (on left) attends Undergraduate Research Day 2009 with two Honors students.



Bottom picture: Leane Krause, Rita Sirrieh and Dr. Christine LeVeaux-Haley discussing an Honors event.

Andy Little (BA, '91) and **Brenda Rhoden** (BA/BS, '98; M.Ed., '05) have continued with Honors in new capacities: Brenda was named Director of Student Affairs last September, while Andy became Coordinator of Academic Services in March 2008. Both continue to serve the continually expanding needs of the College's student body, giving their time to academic advising, student leadership development, recruitment, and retention. Brenda continues work on her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (anticipated graduation: December 2010), while Andy regularly teaches a section in the Human Situation each semester.

Christine LeVeaux-Haley, long time instructor in the College's political science core, was named Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in June. Christine joins new dean William Monroe, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research Stuart Long, and Jodie Köszegei, Assistant Dean for Student Services, in leading The Honors College into its next stage. Christine's responsibilities include developing the upper-division programs in Honors and enhancing recruitment, development, and community outreach for the College.

The College is also pleased to welcome two new faculty members: **Dr. Steven DiMattei** and **Dr. Tamler Sommers**. Dr. DiMattei joined the Honors faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the fall of 2007 from Cornell University. He teaches in the Human Situation sequence and in Religious Studies. His recent courses have included "The Bible and Modern Science" and "The Letters of Paul." Dr. Tamler Sommers joined Honors and the Department of Philosophy last fall on a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor. In addition to teaching in the Human Situation, Dr. Sommers has taught several courses in his area of specialty, among them "Kierkegaard and Nietzsche" and "Punishment."

Honors Announcements

Center for Creative Work:

During spring break this past year, Honors students traveled to Artesian Lakes outside Cleveland, Texas for a weeklong creative workshop, in which they discussed East Texas literature and pursued creative projects, as part of the Writers and Their Regions course. In 2009-10, the Center for Creative Work will produce a new translation of Sophocles' *Electra*.



Honors students at Artesian Lakes.

Undergraduate Research:

Dr. Stuart Long was awarded a \$2 million dollar grant from NSF. A portion of this grant will be utilized to enhance undergraduate research opportunities for engineering students, allowing the Office of Undergraduate Research to support more students in the 2009-2010 academic year. The Office is also preparing for the fifth annual Undergraduate Research Day, taking place on October 1, 2009 in the Rockwell Pavilion. At the event, around 70 undergraduates will present their research through poster, oral, and creative presentations.

Medicine & Society: The Medicine & Society Program at Houston continues to develop its undergraduate internship program. The Program is currently supporting five Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) recipients for fall 2009, and is about to launch an internship program in cooperation with the Texas Medical Center.



"Surgery, Harlem Hospital" (Jacob Lawrence, 1953) The cover art for the new Medicine & Society brochure.

Human Situation:

Dr. Richard Armstrong was awarded a grant for \$24,000 to create a new website for Human Situation and to further support the IT development of The Honors College.

Babies! Babies! Babies! Brenda Rhoden, Director of Student Affairs, welcomed her second child this September, and Ornela Santee, The Honors College Business Administrator, will welcome her first child in October.

Goodbye. The Honors College says goodbye and good luck

to Dr. Stacey Peebles. Stacey is the new assistant director of the Lloyd International Honors College at UNC Greensboro.



Vincent Nguyen explains the biology summer research project he conducted to the President.

President Renu Khator

visited The Honors College in the beginning of the semester and was welcomed by Honors students, faculty, and staff through informal poster presentations and a reception in the Honors Commons.



Common Ground fellows with Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory sharing the quilt they created during their summer seminar.

Common Ground: The Honors College hosted the Common Ground Teachers Institute again in summer 2009, a professional development program for English teachers from secondary schools in the greater-Houston area.

Phronesis: Program in Politics and Ethics

The Honors College's new minor, *Phronesis: A Program in Politics and Ethics*, had a wonderful first year. Approximately 25 students have already formally declared or indicated interest in the minor. In addition to its course offerings, *Phronesis* also sponsored a well-received speaker series on the rise of modern liberty, which featured such notable academics as **Jack Rakove** from Stanford, **Thomas Pangle** from UT Austin, and **Sharon Krause** from Brown University. Our students and faculty had the opportunity to meet with these scholars in seminar and at dinners and lunches, in addition to seeing them lecture. *Phronesis* also supported Professor Pangle's visit as the College's first distinguished teacher in the Ross M. Lence Teacher Residency Program. Thanks to Dean Monroe and the members of the Lence Committee for making this visit a great success.

This coming fall, the program continues to expand its course offerings with Professor **Tamle Sommers'** course on Punishment and Professor **Greg Weiher's** course on Religion and Politics; both professors were awarded Quality in Education Program (QEP) grants for undergraduate research.



Susan Collins, Director of the Phronesis program.



Sharon Krause, from Brown University, lectured on March 9, 2009 as part of the "Rise of Modern Liberty" lecture series.

We also welcome a new colleague! Professor **Jeffrey Church**, a political theorist, comes to us from Notre Dame via Duke University. Professor Church's expertise is in the history of political thought, with a special interest in modern thought, and he will be teaching our core Liberalism and its Critics course.

And our speaker series continues! In October, **William Ian Miller**, Thomas G. Long Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, will deliver a public lecture on the topic of punishment and also visit in seminar with students. **Robert C. Bartlett**, Arthur Blank/NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor at Emory University, will be lecturing in Human Situation on Plato's *Protagoras* and leading a seminar on the philosophical roots of modern secularism.

And, finally, thanks to **Krystafer Redden**, an Honors student who will make a presentation on the *Phronesis* program at the National Collegiate Honors Council (N.C.H.C.) in October after a successful application. A special thanks also goes out to all the Honors students and faculty who have turned out for presentations, lectures, seminars, and dinners, as well as to our deans and great staff who work to support the program. We look forward to a great year ahead!



Eric Marfin and Andy Little, Advisor for the Phronesis program.

Lence Master Teacher Residency

The Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency endeavors to carry forward the profound influence of a man central to the mission and development of The Honors College — the beloved Dr. Lence. In pursuit of this goal, the College annually invites a noted teacher and scholar to engage with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends in conversations, lectures, feasts, and libations. This year's event was held in early February with **Thomas L. Pangle** serving as the 2009 Ross M. Lence Master Teacher. In a diversity of settings—dinners, conversations, lectures, lunches, and receptions—the esteemed political theorist cast a wide net with his choice of topics. He led groups to consider Machiavelli, medieval politics, the American founding, and classical Islam at various times during his visit.

Dr. Pangle holds the Joe R. Long Chair in Democratic Studies in the Department of Government at The University of Texas at Austin. He has been awarded a Guggenheim, four National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships, and the Robert Foster Cherry Great Teacher of the World Prize by Baylor University. At the invitation of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, he recently delivered the Werner Heisenberg Memorial Prize Lecture. Author of numerous scholarly publications, he also sits on the executive council of the American Political Science Association, is general editor of *The Agora Editions* (Cornell U. Press), and is a member of the editorial boards of *Political Research Quarterly* and *Polis, Journal of the Society for the Study of Greek Political Thought*. He also serves on the research council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Next year's event will be February 3-7, so mark your calendars now. **James S. Shapiro** will be visiting Master Teacher. Dr. Shapiro is Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Colum-

bia University, where he has taught since 1985. He has authored several prize-winning books of scholarship, co-edited the *Columbia Anthology of British Poetry*, and served as the associate editor of the *Columbia History of British Poetry*. A Fulbright lecturer at Bar Ilan and Tel Aviv Universities, Dr. Shapiro has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEH, the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and the Huntington Library. His next book, *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?*, will be published in April, 2010. He is currently at work on *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606*. We look forward to his arrival.

It is important to note that the Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency was initially started by an anonymous donor who gave the lead gift to endow this program. This generous individual never knew Ross Lence yet was still inspired by his legend. Thanks to this donor and other supporters, The Honors College is nearly halfway to its goal of \$400,000 to ensure the future of the Residency. Please contact **Shannon Parrish** at sparrish@uh.edu or 713.743.9973 for more information on how you can participate.



Thomas Pangle with Joe Woods and Dr. Pangle lecturing on February 10, 2009 in the Honors Commons.

MONROE, Dean of The Honors College

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Ted, Steve Langfur (associate director of the Houston Honors Program 1977-78, teacher, and guide extraordinaire), and Bill during study abroad in Israel, 1995



Harriett Goodman, Sara White, Bill, and Jacob Monty, UH Regent



Bill with our terrific Honors students



Bill, President Khator, and Martin Cominsky

Also new is the Center for Creative Work program, which is aimed at students of all majors who want to enhance their knowledge and experience of the history, theory, and practice of the fine arts. During spring break this past year, Honors College students traveled to Artesian Lakes outside Cleveland, Texas for a weeklong creative workshop as part of the Writers and Their Regions course. The students met bi-weekly and discussed the literature of East Texas (such as William Goyen's *House of Breath* and Mary Karr's *The Liars Club*) during the semester and used that literature as a window into East Texas culture. At the retreat, everyone pursued individual creative projects by day and then gathered by moonlight to discuss their work and eat—food for mind and body!

Expanding the College's faculty and student roster is another goal of the new dean. All students at the University who are conducting mentored undergraduate research projects will be extended invitations to join the College, while the College will establish affiliations with roughly 25 of the university's top faculty members through the proposed Society of Fellows of The Honors College.

The College will also seek greater visibility under Monroe's leadership. New efforts to market The Honors College will elucidate its central role in helping the University achieve Tier One status while increasing awareness of the College throughout the city and state.

One such effort is the new Honors in the Schools program, which places Honors students, faculty, and alumni in school settings in partnership with teachers and counselors. Those participating in the program will tell the story of The Honors College and present its benefits to some of the area's most promising high school students.

NOTES FROM DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to the 2009 Great Conversation co-chairs, Gerald & Olga Balboa and Trey & Kimberly Wilkinson, Honors raised nearly \$206,000! Honors would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our donors this year. Look for our correspondence about 2010 Great Conversation this fall.

The Advisory Board Corner

The Honors College thanks Martin Cominsky for his tireless service as president of The Honors College Advisory Board and welcomes Gerald Balboa as incoming president. Gerald and Olga Balboa graciously hosted an Advisory Board soiree to celebrate the success of The Honors College over the past year and to reflect on the work of the Board.

Guiding the Advisory Board through the biggest leadership transition in The Honors College's history, Martin Cominsky ('80) generously gave of his time, talents, and resources to assist the College through the retirement of its founding dean, Ted L. Estess. Martin is a proud graduate of the first Human Situation class and has embraced the Honors community for over 25 years.

The incoming president, Gerald Balboa, is a 1993 graduate of The Honors College. Gerald also earned his law degree from UH Law Center in 1998. A native Houstonian, Honors is proud to have Gerald at the helm of the Advisory Board for the 2009-2010 academic year.

See listing of Advisory Board Members on page 11.



Trey Wilkinson, Steve Smith, and Truman Arnold



Jane Cizik, Becky Arnold, and Sara Bettencourt



Martin Cominsky and Gerald Balboa



Gerald and Olga Balboa, Bill, and Kimberly and Trey Wilkinson

Honors Study Abroad

Honors Study Abroad, Turkey 2009

Most years, The Honors College takes interested students for an adventure in study abroad. This summer's destination—Turkey. For some two weeks, the group of 16 Honors students visited dozens of ancient sites and historical venues ranging from Troy (of Helen fame) to the breathtaking spa of Pamukkale, where pure white travertines form frozen waterfalls and pools of opaque turquoise water.

Next year's voyage is still being decided. Locations under consideration are Israel, Spain, and France. Please contact **Ted Estess** at testess@uh.edu for further information on Israel and **Alison Romano** at aromano@uh.edu for developments surrounding other possible destinations.

What our STUDENTS say about Turkey:

Zahra Usmani

Major: Accounting; graduates in May 2012

During my trip to Turkey, the underground city of Kaymakli was one of my favorite sites. As we ventured deep underground, I was enlightened by the Turkish history and the idea of trying to hide from invaders while continuing on with one's daily life. Istanbul, with its rich history and breathtaking sites, including the Blue Mosque, was definitely my favorite city. Though I am already exposed to more than one type of culture in my everyday life, with this trip I was able to immerse myself into the Turkish culture, which allowed me to experience and view the daily living aspects of a Turk. This study abroad has been by far one of the best decisions I have made, as it has familiarized me with another culture in a way no classroom or book ever would have shown me.



Turkey Summer 2009



What our STUDENTS say about Turkey:

Andy Chang

Major: Biology & Mathematics; graduates in May 2011

Prior to this study abroad opportunity, I had no idea what cultural, religious, and historic wonders Turkey had to offer. All of my senses were overwhelmed by this country's beauty, hearing for the first time in my life the Islamic Call to Prayer, experiencing the scents and flavors of Turkey's rich and historic blend of cuisines, feeling the columns of ancient ruins, and gazing upon the majestic landscape were all truly amazing.

It's difficult to narrow down my favorite sites, but I particularly enjoyed the Acropolis at Pergamon which houses the steepest theatre of the ancient world, overlooking Turkey's small villages, colorful plains, and beautiful mountains. By conversing with locals, I learned a great deal about the diversity within the country, Islamic practices, and their religious devotion to football (soccer). This trip gave me the chance to appreciate other cultures firsthand with fellow Honors students, and I hope to do it again soon.

Dana El Kurd

Majors: Political Science and Economics; graduates in May 2012

I am not new to world travel, yet the trip to Turkey with The Honors College has been the best trip I have ever participated in because it was educational, both academically and culturally. We visited a number of sites, all extraordinary in their own right. Istanbul has to be my favorite place though, since it is an exciting and magical city with countless attractions to offer. The sparkling waters of the Bosphorus, the bustle of the Grand Bazaar, and the urban excitement of Istiklal Street are just some of the amazing things to be seen in this important capital of civilizations. The Turks are absolutely right when they say that you cannot know love until you know Istanbul. All in all, this trip was wonderful in offering a glimpse of the Turkish nation, both ancient and modern, and expanding my understanding in a way that will last a lifetime.

Goodwin Discovers More about Texas NAACP Pioneer



Using primary sources to piece together Mary B. Talbert's role in expanding early membership in the Texas NAACP, Honors history and political science double major Derek Goodwin documented an important piece of history.

"Through NAACP records and her own written correspondence, we traced her tour through Texas as she recruited members in San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin between 1918 and 1919," Goodwin explained.

An undergraduate researcher like Goodwin was a good fit for this project because undergraduates often become engaged with the material quickly, and they have enthusiasm and energy for the material, according to his mentor, Dr. Charles Orson Cook.

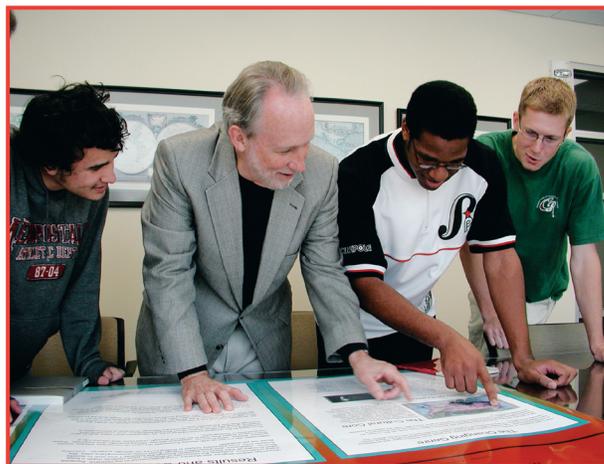
Cook finds his working relationship with Goodwin especially rewarding given that it is not as commonplace to involve students in research in social sciences and humanities as it is in other disciplines. The relationship is collaborative, supportive, and trusting, which paves the way for research success. "Dr. Cook is the main reason that I have been involved in undergraduate research. When I struggled to find direction early on, Dr. Cook detailed the proper methodology for historical research. As my own skills developed, he displayed a keen sense of knowing when to let me pursue leads independently," Goodwin said.

"Because of [Talbert's] work, NAACP membership in Texas was the highest in the nation. This is incredible considering the era and the country's atti-

tudes toward race at that time." Goodwin continued, "Historians have overlooked the accomplishments of black women in the early NAACP, particularly in the Jim Crow South." Talbert was remarkable because she could help build a coalition without attracting attention from law enforcement. "Men like W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington would have drawn a large crowd and most likely severe protests. Black women utilized connections they had established through their own organizations to build the NAACP."

Spurred by his success with this research project, Goodwin is pursuing opportunities to broaden his experience. He is working to expand his research on Talbert into his Senior Honors Thesis and applying for the Marshall Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in the UK.

story by Amanda Hosey, UH Division of Research



Daniel Mendiola, Dr. Cook, Ronnie Turner, and Derek Goodwin studying a research poster: Dr. Cook is the Honors faculty mentor to all three students.

Honors College Advisory Board Members

<i>Truman Arnold</i>	<i>Pat Fitzgerald*</i>	<i>Gray Miller*</i>
<i>Gerald Balboa, President</i>	<i>Vincent D. Foster</i>	<i>Lou Pelz**</i>
<i>Sara M. Bettencourt*</i>	<i>Michael Gapinski</i>	<i>Steve Smith</i>
<i>Cathy Campbell Brock</i>	<i>Sean Gorman</i>	<i>Connie Simmons Taylor</i>
<i>M.H. "Butch" Cersonsky</i>	<i>Michael J. Harlan</i>	<i>Karen Webster</i>
<i>Jane Cizik, Chairman</i>	<i>Tim Headley</i>	<i>Trey Wilkinson</i>
<i>Murry Cohen</i>	<i>Steven Hecht</i>	
<i>Martin B. Cominsky, Past President</i>	<i>Clay Hoster**</i>	<i>*Board Member Rotating off the Advisory Board</i>
<i>Ryan Crane</i>	<i>Anne Lamkin Kinder</i>	<i>**New Advisory Board Member</i>
<i>Jeff Dodd</i>	<i>Scott Lemon</i>	
	<i>Kenny Mercado**</i>	



Honors Remembers Tanya Lunstroth

Tanya was the face of The Honors College for over 20 years until her death on August 25th. Generations of students, faculty, and staff enjoyed her wit, candor, and hospitality, whether at her desk or her home. We will miss her; the College cannot be the same without her.

As an ongoing tribute to remember Tanya and to honor her generosity, especially toward students, Nancy McCaslin and other Honors College alumni and friends are establishing a Tanya Lunstroth Scholarship. Make pledges and checks out to the University of Houston and send to: The Honors College, 212 M.D. Anderson Library, Houston, TX 77204-2001. Questions about the scholarship may be directed to TanyaScholarship@yahoo.com or Edith Dugas, 713-743-3273.

1970s

Tim Headley ('71, Electrical Engineering; '84, Law) has embarked on a solo practice as a patent, trademark, and copyright lawyer. He and his wife Linda have two granddaughters and welcomed their third grandchild this past July.

<HeadleyIPLaw@gmail.com>

J.C. Patrick ('79, Radio and Television) was appointed as the new Director of Corporate Support for KUHF Houston Public Radio. She also serves as the treasurer of PRA-DO, the Public Radio Association of Development Officers, a national organization.

<jcpatrick@kuhf.org>

1980s

Richard Dowling ('85, Music) saved the historic sheet music store Wadler-Kaplan, formerly located on South Main Street, this past fall. Dowling Music officially opened for business on October 27, 2008 and is now located on the southwest corner of Kirby Drive. Richard has also recently appeared as a guest soloist with the Texas Music Festival Orchestra in UH's Moores Opera House for the opening night of the annual UH summer music festival.

<pianistNYC@aol.com>



Robert Nowak ('87, Radio & Television; '89, French) recently celebrated his 10th year as a City of Houston Webmaster and his 15th year as a City of Houston employee.

<Robert.nowak@cityofhouston.net>

John Royal ('88, Radio and Television and English) has started his own legal-based firm, Royal Document Review. He is also the co-founder and co-editor of the "Third Intermission," a sports blog dedicated to the Houston Aeros and hockey in general.

thethirdintermission.blogspot.com.

<jwroyal@flash.net>

1990s

Mark Brokowski ('92, Marketing) and his family have moved to Chicago. He is starting his 8th year with American Express in the B2B group and is now head of business travel sales for the Great Lakes region.

<mark.w.brokowski@aexp.com>

Ed Burleson ('92, Mathematics) has been a Foreign Service Officer with the Dept. of State since January 2008. He is currently serving in Manila, Philippines. He, his wife, and two daughters plan to reside at his next post in Tokyo in 2010.

<ecburleson@yahoo.com>

alumni news

Aristotle Economon ('89, Economics), **Hanneke Faber** ('90, Journalism), and their family will be moving from Geneva, Switzerland to Cincinnati, Ohio. Hanneke has been chosen to lead the Pantene/Herbal Essence franchise globally, and they will be spending the next 2-3 years in the States. The couple enjoyed recently hosting F.E.E.T. (Faber-Economon European Travel) scholars Sara Gabler and Maria Pulsifer in Geneva.

<economon@bluewin.ch>

James Hodsden ('92, Mathematics) is the senior pastor at the Ardmore Presbyterian Church in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

<james.hodsden@gmail.com>



Bill Ramsey ('93, Chemical Engineering; '99, MBA) has been promoted to the position of Global Industrial and Consumer Market Manager for the Specialty Elastomers business of ExxonMobil Chemical. Bill, his wife Lani (Dunn) Ramsey ('94, Education), and their two children, Marissa and Kyle, moved back to Houston from Akron, Ohio last June. <william.a.ramsey@exxonmobil.com>

Jill (Schulz) Alexander Essbaum ('94, English Creative Writing and French) had her fourth collection of poems, *Necropolis*, published in late 2008. One of her poems was included in *The Best American Erotic Poetry: 1800 to the Present*. <jilly.essbaum@gmail.com>

alumni news

Libby Ingrassia Bergman ('94, English and History) married Philip Bergman in March 2009. She just finished her Master's degree at Rice and has been working as a freelance writer, editor, and educator. <libbyingrassia@gmail.com>



Stephanie Dement ('95, French) is now the Director of Children's Ministries for Lakeside United Methodist Church. <Stephanie@dementfamily.com>

Jim Keck ('95, Chemical Engineering) married Amy Geneux on July 12, 2008. They welcomed twins William Thomas Keck and Audrey Catherine Keck on June 8, 2009. <jkeck@axensna.com>

Fermeen Fazal ('96, Biology; '97, English; '00 Law) will be beginning her sixth year practicing law at Gibbs and Bruns LLP in Houston this fall. Fermeen and her husband, Rizwan Merchant, welcomed their new daughter, Saira, on November 3, 2008, joining son Shahrack. <ffazal@gibbs-bruns.com>



Kara (Stauffer) Philbin ('96, Kinesiology-Exercise Science; '06, Law) and husband, Dax Philbin, welcomed their first child, Hudson Levi, on January 17, 2009. She continues to work as an associate at Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston. <kphilbin@fulbright.com>

Josh Willis ('96, Physics and Mathematics), an oceanographer and climate scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, was recently honored by President Barack Obama with the 2009 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. His wife, Dixie Aragaki ('96, Biology), continues her work as a physician and clinical professor at the West Los Angeles Veteran's Hospital. <josh_k_willis@yahoo.com> <dixie_aragaki@yahoo.com>

Andrew Becker ('97, Psychology) lives in Wisconsin with his wife, Michelle, and their two sons, Noah (6) and Isaiah (2). Andrew continues to perform nationally as a comedy hypnotist and is also a computer and job skills trainer in Green Bay, Wisconsin. <beckerhyponosis@gmail.com>

Shelly Dittmar ('98, Political Science) and **Alan Julson** ('98 Political Science and Economics) welcomed daughter Ruby Jeanne into their family on February 23, 2009. Shelly works for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and Alan telecommutes to a company in Washington D.C. <sjdittmar@gmail.com>

Jason Wolfe ('99, Chemical Engineering) earned a skydiving class-A license from the USPA and is currently 40 hours into a Private Pilot certificate for single-engine fixed-wing aircraft. He recently completed post-baccalaureate studies at the University of Chicago in Computer Science and is now studying Mandarin. This winter, Jason plans to spend a number of weeks in Antarctica climbing and sightseeing.

<jkwolfe@hotmail.com>

2000s

David A. Berntsen ('00, Optometry, '02) and his wife, Monique, had their second child on May 7th. Reed Alan joins their 2-year-old daughter, Ella. David recently graduated from Ohio State University with his Ph.D. in Vision Science.

<DBerntsen@optometry.osu.edu>



Joseph Gaines ('01, Applied Music) joined the artist roster of John Miller at Pinnacle Arts Management in New York. He also performed with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Opera Theater of Pittsburg, Ars Lyrica Houston, and was again a Young Artist at Glimmerglass Opera. He plans on making his debut with Pittsburgh Opera later this year.

<http://www.josephgaines.com>

Anne Reuter ('02, Biophysical Sciences) graduated with a Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in May 2009.

<Anne.Reuter@UTSouthwestern.edu>

Jessica Beck ('03, Creative Writing) just completed her fifth year of teaching 7th grade Language Arts in the Austin area. She also participates in the Heart of Texas Writing Project.

<jessica.beck@gmail.com>

Morad Kabiri ('04, Industrial Engineering) is currently the Interim Director of Community Development and the City Engineer for the City of Friendswood. Morad and his wife Laura (Spivey) Kabiri ('03, Music) have two year-old twin boys.

<mkabiri@ci.friendswood.tx.us>

Christian Schmidt ('04, English) will be attending the Austin Presbyterian Seminary in Fall 2009. He will be guest preaching throughout the summer in several cities throughout Texas. <christ1021@aol.com>

Matthew Sheinberg ('04) and his wife had their first daughter on June 7, 2009. He currently teaches math in New York City Public Schools.

<msheinberg@gmail.com>

alumni news

Casey (Broxson) Hensley ('03, Civil Engineering) married Thomas Hensley on February 15, 2009. She graduated from Colorado School of Mines with a Masters in Environmental Engineering in 2005. She currently works as an environmental engineer at Questar, Inc.

<caseybroxson@yahoo.com>



Chris Hartschuh ('05, Economics) married Roxanne Mengarelli May 9th, 2009. The couple is expecting their first child in early 2010.

<clhartschuh@gmail.com>

Lori (Johns) Labian ('05, Psychology) is expecting her first child in early December. Until the new baby arrives, Lori plans to continue working as a nurse in the Neonatal ICU at Children's Memorial Hermann.

<lelabian@gmail.com>

Please send your alumni notes to
Brenda Rhoden at bjrhoden@uh.edu.

HONORS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 26, 2009

6 p.m. UH vs. Texas Tech Honors College Tailgate

Monday, October 1, 2009

4 p.m. Undergraduate Research Day / poster and oral presentations by undergraduates:
Rockwell Pavilion

HOMEcomings WEEK

Saturday, October 17, 2009

TIME TBA Rock the Block – The UH Metro Volunteer Program is sponsoring a community service opportunity for UH students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their guests. For more information visit www.uh.edu.

Monday, October 19, 2009

12 p.m. Official Homecoming Opening Ceremonies: University Center Arbor

5-7 p.m. William Ian Miller / Public Lecture

Dr. Miller is an author and the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law at University of Michigan. This event is sponsored by the *Phronesis* Program:
The Honors College Commons / Reception to follow

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

3-5:30 p.m. Howard Dean: Speaking on health care reform:
Rockwell Pavilion / Book signing and reception to follow

7 p.m. Strut Your Stuff: Song, dance, and comedy as performed by students, all with a Homecoming twist: University Center Houston Room

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

11 a.m. Go Coogs Day Pep Rally: Cullen Family Plaza / Free food and fun!

7-9 p.m. David Brenner/Public Lecture, “The Holocaust and the Ethics of Representation.” Dr. Brenner teaches German, English, and the Human Situation. This event is part of Ethical Aesthetics—*A Modular Symposium on Art and Human Suffering:* The Holocaust Museum / Reception to follow

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Time TBA - RHA Beauty Bowl and Block Party

6:30-8:30 p.m. Willard Spiegelman/Lecture “Seven Pleasures.” Dr. Spiegelman is editor of *Southwest Review* and the Duwain E. Hughes Jr. Distinguished Professor of English at Southern Methodist University:
The Honors College Commons / Reception to follow

Saturday, October 24, 2009

4:30 p.m. UH vs. SMU Honors College Tailgate

5 p.m. Homecoming Parade

6:30 p.m. UH vs. SMU Homecoming Game

Sunday, October 25, 2009

9 a.m. Homecoming 5K Run/Walk for people & dogs!

Monday, October 26, 2009

9 a.m. 27th Annual UHAA Homecoming Golf Tournament: Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club; RSVP to Courtney Kindall at 713-743-0828

Monday & Tuesday, October 26, 27 2009

Time TBA Robert Bartlett – Visiting Scholar for the *Phronesis* Program:
The Honors College Commons / Reception to follow

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The Honors College

William Monroe, Dean
Stuart Long, Associate Dean
Christine LeVeaux-Haley, Interim Assistant Dean
Jodie Köszegei, Assistant Dean

Office telephone: 713/743-9010

Office fax: 713/743-9015

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HONORS CALENDAR Cont.



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Saturday, October 31, 2009

UH vs. Southern Mississippi Honors College Tailgate

Saturday, November 21, 2009

UH vs. Memphis Honors College Tailgate

Saturday, November 28, 2009

UH vs. Rice Honors College Tailgate