

CADENZA

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAMAR



UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Fall 2013

50 Years of Honors Education at Lamar 1963-2013



The Lamar University Honors Program opened its doors in the Fall of 1963, making it the oldest Honors program in the Texas State University System. From its entering class of 20 freshmen, the Honors Program has now grown to more than 320 students. Over the years, the Program has developed a robust curriculum of honors education that both encompasses the University's core curriculum and provides opportunities for advanced coursework in each student's major field of

study, as well as providing unique cutting-edge interdisciplinary honors seminars and topics courses.

The Program now has a Director, its own permanent facilities, an endowment, an award-winning Honors Student Association, a peer-mentoring program, and a residential wing (Scholars Tower) in the University's Cardinal Village. The Program has been an active member of the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Great Plains Honors Council. Throughout its development, one constant has remained: a commitment to the education and transformation of Lamar University Honors students.

As a comprehensive program addressing the full array of its students' needs, Lamar Honors is poised for a new era of dramatic growth. At the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in October, Dr. Kenneth Evans, the new President of Lamar University, announced that the Honors Program will now become an Honors College. This represents the culmination of fifty years of hard work by faculty, staff, and students at Lamar University.

Top Photo: Dale Priest, Freshman Honors Student, 1963
Bottom Photo: Dr. Dale Priest, LU Professor of English, today

Inside CADENZA

Partners in the Park, Honors Briefs	pg 2
Message from the President, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Delta	pg 3
Adventures in Translation	pg 4
50 th Anniversary Celebration	pg 5-6
Service Learning in Guatemala	pg 7
Honors Spring Reception	pg 8
Honor Program Graduates	pg 9
Announcement	pg 10



**Let us know what
YOU are doing so we can
include you in our
next issue of Cadenza!**

Partners in the Park

By Jessica Pospisil



This summer, with the help of a McMaster grant from the Lamar University Honors Program, I had the opportunity to participate in the Partners in the Parks project at the Grand Canyon and

Parashant Monument which is a huge piece of land consisting of over one million acres. Partners in the Parks is an outdoor learning experience where students are able to immerse themselves in the beauty of a national park. When I registered for the trip, I had no idea what to expect, but it turned out to be the best camping trip I have been, and I have been on quite a few camping trips.

The first night that I was there, I participated in a bat catch and release. Southern Utah University hosted the bat catch and release. It was really interesting watching the volunteers set up the nets and then help free the bats once they were caught. After they were caught, they were examined and tagged if they were not already tagged. The purpose of this project was to see if any new species of bats

could be identified in the Pipe Springs National Monument. I gained a whole new respect for bats after this experience. It was really exciting when I had the opportunity to release a bat by just holding it and letting it fly out of my hand. It felt very weird and it tickled a little too.

I also learned about the land and some of the problems that it faces, like designating which areas are wilderness and which are campgrounds. My favorite part of the trip was hiking all over the Grand Canyon. We camped at an area that few people ever visit or explore. I was able to walk right to the edge of the canyon and look down at the most beautiful scene ever!

The last two days of the trip, I stayed at a research lab on Mount Logan, which is a part of the Parashant Monument. I had the opportunity to help out on a research project that examined the flora and fauna of Mount Logan. I also was able to work on the beautification of the mountain as well. I cleared out walking trails and helped repost a trail head marker.

Overall, this was an amazing experience! I met some great people, learned a lot, and enjoyed every second of my time there. I am now motivated to visit other national and state parks. I encourage anyone who is looking for an adventure to consider participating in Partners in the Parks and take advantage of this great opportunity.

Honors Briefs

- At the Student Government Association's Annual Toast to Leadership last May, the Honors Student Association was named Departmental/Professional Student Organization of the Year. Candice Montgomery won the Bess Gentry Award for Outstanding Senior Woman and the Finalist for the Ann Shaw Student Leadership Award. Micah Murdock received the Rising Cardinal Award as the outstanding Lamar Freshman.
- Honour Harry received Honorable Mention in the 2013-2014 national scholarship competition for the Kappa Pi International Honorary Art Fraternity.
- Keeley Townley-Smith was named one of Lamar's two 2014 Beck Fellows. This summer, she will be conducting research in atomic spectroscopy at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD.
- Will Pickard, Jordan King, and David Tsan presented their undergraduate research in the student poster sessions at the 2013 Annual Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in New Orleans. Will's research focused on Brittle Stars, while Jordan and David's was devoted to hydrogen fuel cells and electric cars.
- The Honors Student Association won the Annual Setzer Center Food Drive by collecting 1422 non-perishable food items for donation to the Southeast Texas Food Bank.
- Kathleen Broussard and Katherine have been awarded grants by Lamar University's Office of Undergraduate Research. The students will receive up to \$1000 to support their research along with a \$500 stipend.

A Message from the H.S.A. President



Hello, my name is Fernando Mejia, and I am serving as President of the Honors Student Association for the 2013-2014 academic year. I am a dietetics/pre-med major and will graduate December 2014.

During my freshman year I became a member of the Honors Student Association. My involvement with HSA has allowed me to meet new people and make connections, which in turn introduced me to other organizations on campus in which I became involved, such as Lamar Ambassadors. I have built a bond with my fellow Cardinals by having the opportunity to attend and participate in many university events including plays, concerts, sporting events, volunteer work, faculty lectures, and fundraising events.

As President of the HSA, I have been encouraged and supported in building on the legacy of community service work of the organization and fulfilling my own call to service. Some of my most favorite memories stem from the community service work done through HSA. It is so rewarding to see large groups of students, in their Honors t-shirts, cleaning the beaches or packing food into boxes at the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

I plan to enjoy my last few months at Lamar and continue my involvement on-campus and the community.

Phi Kappa Phi



In spring 2013, the Lamar chapter of the National Honors Society Phi Kappa Phi inducted fifteen students from the Honors Program into its ranks. Admission is exclusively by invitation, with only the top 10 percent of seniors and the top 7.5 percent of juniors eligible for membership in this prestigious organization. Honors Program Director Dr. Kevin Dodson took over spring 2010 as President of the Lamar Chapter. This year's Student Vice President is Honors Program student, Christine Zabala.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and largest collegiate honors society, with chapters on over 300 campuses. With membership drawn from all university disciplines, its mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." To advance these goals, Phi Kappa Phi makes a variety of awards supporting graduate study, study abroad, career development, and literacy programs. Lamar honors students have been recipients of these awards in the past.

The 2013 Phi Kappa Phi inductees include Honors Program students Joseph Blackner, Debra Goss, Honour Harry, Pedro Hidalgo, Charles Huynh, Emily Kosh, Lauren Leshikar, Seth Lipko, Alexis Nelson, Chris Perkins, William Pickard, Jessica Pospisil, Riyad Samad, Sarah Saucedo, and Daniel Ward.

For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, you can visit www.phikappaphi.org.



Phi Beta Delta

Last Spring semester, six Honors students – Chelsea Barnard, Honour Harry, Amy Morgan, Gwen Mumford, Will Pickard, and Jennifer Torry – were all honored for their international scholarship by being inducted into the Beta Xi Chapter of Phi Beta Delta. Lamar honors student Elisabeth Maxwell won 2013 Marian Beane/Charles Gliozzo Domestic Student Award for International Achievement given by the national organization.

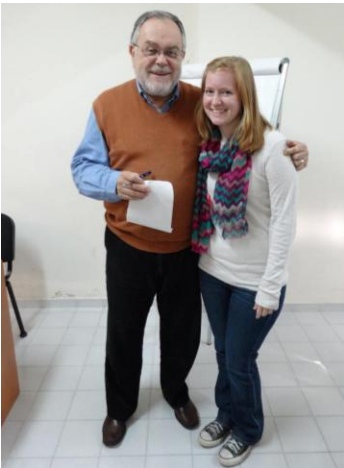
As the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education, Phi Beta Delta seeks to recognize the efforts of international students and scholars, to advance international programming in higher education, and to establish a network of faculty, students, and staff working on international projects. Since its founding at California State University in 1986, Phi Beta Delta has grown to over 180 chapters. Lamar University's Beta Xi Chapter was chartered in 1981 and now boasts 55 members.

Adventures in Translation

By Amy Morgan

For as long as I remember I have dreamed of discovering new places, new people, of learning from them and learning about myself in the process. Receiving the David J. Beck Fellowship allowed me to do just that. I was apprehensive about applying for the fellowship – after all, why would they select me, an English and Spanish major, to study literature and translation over another student whose project would have more tangible results? Fortunately, after seeking the counsel of many trusted members of the faculty at Lamar, along with my family and friends, I decided to go for it. Honestly, overcoming this particular insecurity and reaching for this seemingly unreachable goal was the best decision I made as a student at Lamar.

The Beck Fellowship covers all costs at Lamar for one year as well as supplying the recipients with a \$10,000 summer stipend to pursue a project of their design. For my project, I traveled to Argentina where I attended a two-week literature seminar hosted by the Mempo Giardinelli Foundation in the city of Resistencia. This seminar brought in writers and critics from around Argentina to discuss pertinent issues in Argentine and Latin American literature today. The seminar coordinated my stay with a family in Resistencia as well as events for all of the seminar participants, like a movie series each evening and a tango night, not to mention some *amazing* foods like asado and empanadas. The seminar itself was challenging and rewarding, with each participant and lecturer bringing their individual perspectives and experiences to share. I loved getting to know each of them and to hear their own experiences with literature – why they write, how they write, why they value



literature, how literature has shaped their lives – and to share my own opinions with them. My time there broadened my own knowledge about Spanish and helped transform my perception of translation and its place in modern society.



Outside of the seminar, I knew I wanted to see as much of Argentina as I could. I traveled one weekend to Iguazu Falls, a series of waterfalls between Argentina and Brazil that has been named one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. I have never before been so completely in awe of nature. It is exceptionally difficult to put the emotional and spiritual elements of a place like Iguazu into words, which is why, I suppose, writers so often gravitate toward nature as their inspiration. I could go on for far too long about the astonishing power of the Parana River which feeds the Falls, the hilarious and mischievous raccoon-like coati that would steal food from your bag when you weren't watching, and the artisans who would sell their handmade bags and jewelry as you walked through the park. But, in summation, this place is a must-see.

To end my time in Argentina, I traveled to Buenos Aires for a week. This was especially significant to me in that I was going alone. The rest of my time there had been spent in the company of others who could help me if I needed it, who were patient and understanding that Spanish is my second language, who could, if nothing else, point me in the right direction so I wouldn't get lost. Being in such a historically and culturally significant city, my week passed in a blink. I filled my days with museums, city tours, vast open-air markets, and sightseeing. I could have stayed for a month and found something new to do every day.

I learned so much from my time in Argentina, made wonderful friends, and had some truly unforgettable moments. My time as a Beck Fellow has been absolutely phenomenal.

HONORS PROGRAM 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



HONORS PROGRAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Service Learning in Guatemala

By Paige Miller

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to serve and work with malnourished children in the mountains of Guatemala because of a McMaster Grant from the Honors Program and the support of Lamar University. I spent five weeks in San Juan, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala as an intern for Orphan's Heart.

Orphan's Heart is an orphanage partnered with Colonia Infantil (Centro Educativo Rehabilitación Nutrición (CERN)), a malnutrition center in San Juan, founded in 2008 to help meet the needs of children suffering from malnutrition by providing financial and administrative support and approximately 40 teams per year. They primarily work alongside locals to help them improve the level of care for the children they serve. In addition, Orphan's Heart works to improve the safety and security of the children and help improve conditions to foster better health and sanitation.

I was excited and ready to use and further the knowledge and skills I had acquired in the Lamar University nursing program. We spent the first weekend in Antigua, a historical city about an hour outside of the capital. We experienced and learned so much about the beautiful city and rich culture of the Guatemalan people during our time in Antigua. After spending a few days in Antigua, we traveled up, both in latitude and altitude, to the Malnutrition Center in San Juan, Sacatepéquez. When we arrived, we received a quick tour of the facility and then thrown right into the routine of things.

I was the intern for the Conejitos (bunnies) and Pollo (chicks) rooms. There were six total rooms and each room had a different animal name. My two rooms consisted of toddler-aged children. The bunnies were the slightly younger group- they were still in diapers and could not feed themselves yet. The chicks were potty trained and were able to feed themselves. There were 16 bunnies and 17 chicks in my two rooms. I worked closely with the nanny of each room to provide care to our kids from the time they woke up until they are put to bed.



Each week, I was also responsible for introducing and acclimating the new team-members to the Center and to my two rooms. The teams stayed in a hotel in Antigua and traveled each day to the facility. After explaining the schedule, delegating morning and afternoon duties, and what to expect, we would basically let them loose. I had anywhere from seven to sixteen teammates each week. I was also the mediator many times between my teammates and nannies since the majority of the teammates did not speak Spanish and the nannies spoke only Spanish. The teams came in each day with two translators, who were incredible, but they were not always available and were only at the facility when the teams were there; needless to say, my small Spanish vocabulary grew quickly out of necessity.

As an intern, I lived at the facility with two other interns in a dorm room. Our days were busy and consisted of providing both physiological and psychosocial care to the children. It was indescribably rewarding to see the visible changes in the children's health throughout our five weeks. I learned so much about the concept of nursing holistically and about myself throughout this experience.

The McMaster's grant from the Honors Program helped provide me this unique opportunity. It was truly an amazing, life changing trip. There is no doubt in my mind that this experience will benefit the rest of my education here at Lamar and my future career as a registered nurse.

Achievements Recognized at the Honors Program Spring Awards Reception

McMaster Honors Scholarship 2013 Recipients

New Incoming Students

- Reagan Ficken, Orangefield
- Garrett Glatfelter, Dayton
- Luke Johnson, Orangefield
- Brandon Pham, Port Neches-Groves
- Stormy Semich, Lindale

Current Honors Program Students

- Seth Lipko, Electrical Engineering
- Mohannud Mohammad, Biology/Pre-Med
- Micah Murdock, Chemical Engineering

Honors Program Graduates May 2013

- Brett Bertles, Chemical Engineering
- Rachel Binagia, Graphic Design
- Alaina Bray, English
- Chance Burnett, Accounting
- Bryan Deagle, Electrical Engineering/Mathematics
- Grant Encalade, Chemistry/Pre-Dental
- Tamara Frydson, Chemical Engineering
- Megan Hebert, Nursing
- Candice Montgomery, Industrial Engineering
- Jung Mour, Chemical Engineering
- Long Nguyen, Chemical Engineering
- Zia Rogers, Studio Art
- Kayleigh Romero, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Jennifer Torry, English/French
- Christine Zabala, English/History



H.S.A. Officers 2013-2014

Fernando Mejia, President
Adam Smith, Vice President
Jamie Stafford, Secretary/Treasurer
Carlos Caballero, Student Government Representative
Ayah Hamza, Service Chair
Mohannud Mohammad and Kevin Zabala, Events Chair
Zach Holt, Campus Involvement

Honors Professor of the Year 2012-2013

Each year, members of the Honor Student Association vote for Honors Professor of the year. This year's winner was Dr. Nicki Michalski, Assistant Professor of Communications.

Honors Program Graduates May 2013

From the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, and Engineering



FRONT ROW: Candice Montgomery, Tamara Frydson, Jennifer Torry, Christine Zabala, Megan Hebert
 BACK ROW: Dr. Kevin Dodson, Long Nguyen, Brett Bertles, Grant Encalade, Bryan Deagle
Not pictured: Alaina Bray, Chance Burnett, Jung Mour

December 2012

From the Colleges of Arts & Sciences
and Engineering



Jonathan Durr, Micah Goines, Chelsea Barnard,
 Dana Guy, Dr. Kevin Dodson, Cynthia Willis, Lauren
 Alphin, Jessica Maass, Conrad Morgan
Not pictured: Zach Files

May 2013

From the Colleges of Education
and Fine Arts & Communication



Dr. Kevin Dodson, Zia Rogers, Kayleigh Romero,
 Rachel Binagia

THE HONORS PROGRAM

IS NOW

THE HONORS COLLEGE

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