During Curtis Baluske’s time at SHSU, he was the recipient of the 2012 Sammy Award for the College of Sciences for working with students across the state, teaching them the basics of archery and how to shoot a bow.

That passion for improving the lives of others carried through into his work in the lab at Georgia Institute of Technology, where he is currently a graduate assistant completing his doctorate in physics. His research focuses on all-atom molecular dynamic simulations of outer membrane proteins, or how proteins absorb different nutrients through the cellular envelope in an effort to create more effective antibiotics.

“We want to identify these processes so we can produce stronger antibiotics that bacteria can’t become resistant to,” he said. “To be effective, antibiotics have to get into the cell and target certain areas so they can kill the cell.”

Balusek graduated from SHSU in 2012 with an Honors dual bachelor’s degree in math and physics, and says his time at SHSU prepared him for many of the challenges he has faced in graduate school.

However, he believes that the most valuable experience he received during his undergraduate career would be the opportunities he was provided for research.

“The numerous opportunities I received as an undergraduate researcher were some of the most beneficial to me. I had a number of experiences with professors who prepared me for the type of work I would be doing in graduate school.”

He looks forward to beginning a career in pharmacology or at a research firm where he can continue to understand proteins and develop more effective antibiotics.
Fifteen Honors students will travel to London and Paris in May 2016, taking part in a unique opportunity to explore two of Europe’s oldest and vibrant cities by critically examining the cities’ deep and varied histories through their individual cityscapes. Students will visit ancient, medieval, and modern sites, explore castles and other ruins, walk through museums, ride various forms of modern transportation, and enjoy local cuisine and nightlife.
Many people all over the country spent most of 2015 wondering if they would survive the great ‘Blue Bell Famine’ of 2015, when the company shut down production after listeria was found in multiple plants.

Mark Collette spent months reporting on the event as an investigative reporter for the Houston Chronicle and will discuss what he learned in a lecture sponsored by the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, the Department of English, SHSU Writing in the Disciplines, and the Center for Law, Engagement, and Politics.

“My own unit of the course explores the relationship between investigative reporting and satirical literature, and other faculty members will be discussing the history of dairy farming in Texas, marketing, government regulation, and food-borne diseases, among other topics,” Demson said.

Collette is an award-winning editor and reporter who has also worked for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, Galveston County Daily News and Tyler Morning Telegraph.
Honors Welcome Retreat Fall 2015

Over 100 faculty, Ambassadors, and new members of the Honors College spent the weekend at SHSU’s University Camp, providing a chance for new students to get better acquainted with one another as well as the Honors College faculty and staff. The retreat includes various ice breaker games as well as line-dancing, zip-lining, and kayaking. Information sessions held throughout the retreat are intended to help new students better understand Honors requirements as well as learn about the opportunities available to them as an Honors student.

Honors Ambassadors serve as camp counselors and plan out the events for students to partake in at the retreat. “We spent a lot of time ensuring that the activities we planned were going to be fun for everyone. It was really important to us to host games that encouraged comradery among the students, especially because no one really knew one another initially,” said Shealynn Vogan, President of the Honors College Ambassadors. “It is extremely satisfying to watch the transition new Honors students go through in the short two days we are at the Honors Welcome Retreat. We are given the opportunity to help them gain a sense of community and friendship, which is ultimately the main goal of the retreat.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Nina Garcia

Nina L. Garcia, a Sam Houston State Honors College alumna, is a New-York born, Houston-raised actress, singer, and dancer with a Theatre/Speech Teaching Certification and BFA Musical Theatre. With extensive choral training and notable jazz vocals, her passion for Musical Theatre was piqued in high school when she starred in Les Miserables as Eponine.

Garcia went on to train for four years at Sam Houston State University, most notably starring as Carla in Nine, with the additions of internships at Houston’s Theater Under The Stars, and at Stages Repertory Theatre for two starring roles as Danilo in Ferdinand the Bull and Li’l Red in the world premiere of Panto Red Riding Hood.

Dr. Patrick Lewis shares, “I have many fond memories of Nina. She is such a positive energy person she just stood out in class. She is also very outspoken and not shy in the least, so was always willing to speak her mind in seminars. Having students like her makes a seminar work so I was always grateful for her. But personally it was what I learned from her as a yoga instructor that stays with me, not what I taught her in class. She was always so kind and yet precise in yoga. She really helped to make what can be a bit of a strange experience for students who haven’t practiced before and made it real.”

After graduating May 2012 with Honors and her BFA and an Emphasis in Music, Garcia has gone on to receive her teaching certification in Theatre EC-12, portray lead vocalist Victoria Loren of The Moonlight Dolls Troupe, as well as many other roles in Houston theaters, she launched NLG Entertainment: the culmination of years of hard work, training, and dedication to the people she entertains. NLG Entertainment maintains a professional singing department, Princess shows and appearances, singing telegrams, and much more – it is the Entertainer herself, and your own personal Event Coordinator combined in one, to bring to life the dream that you have for your special occasion. "Nina Garcia truly is the people’s entertainer, and after working with her, you’ll see why”, concluded Dr. Lewis.
Terry Scholars in Honors
Edwin Cantu and Yasmyn Sumiyoshi

During his freshman year at SHSU, Edwin Cantu was faced with a difficult decision he never thought he’d have to face so early in his college career—he wasn’t happy studying physics and engineering. “I was good at it, but it wasn’t fulfilling,” he said. “It didn’t take me long to realize it didn’t make me happy.”

Luckily, Cantu didn’t have to make the decision on his own. As a member of the first cohort of Terry Foundation scholarship recipients at SHSU, he not only had his family to help him, he had his new Terry family to help him decide what he should do. “The foundation does cover the cost of our school, and while I’m eternally grateful for that, it’s only one of the many things they do,” he said.

Knowing how lucky he is to be part of the Terry Scholars and have those opportunities, when he began considering changing his major, he had to think quickly to avoid wasting the resources given to him by the foundation.

With the help of his family and his new Terry family, Cantu realized that his heart was leading him to pursue entrepreneurship, with the hopes of one day opening a business dedicated to teaching leadership skills and charisma. “I want students to realize that it doesn’t matter how smart you are; as long as you’re good to those around you, you’ll succeed,” Cantu said.

Terry Scholars have access to a list of Terry Alumni who are committed to helping future Terrys and serve as a mentor if they need one. Having access to that list is one of the most important resources for students, according to Cantu. “That was the biggest thing for me,” he said. “If you reach out to someone and tell them you’re a Terry, that’s all they need to hear to know what type of person you are and they’re willing to help.”

Though he has only been part of this family for a short period of time, he feels that the connection he has with current and former Terrys makes him more confident than he would be without them.

When Cantu was awarded the scholarship, he wondered if they had given it to the wrong candidate. Knowing there was too much at stake to have a negative outlook, he decided that no matter what happened, he was going to succeed. He knew that at any moment he could have everything taken away from him and he would be forced to do it alone. “It gave me a lot of confidence in myself,” he said. “While most of my friends were struggling and stressing out over tests, I looked at it as an invitation. I may make a ‘B’ because I don’t know all of the material, but I’m ready to show what I know.”

Yasmyn Sumiyoshi, a freshman musical theatre major and member of the second cohort of Terry Scholars at SHSU, recognizes the impact that the opportunity has had on her life. “It’s great coming into the second cohort. Last year’s group is helpful because they’ve been there,” Sumiyoshi said. “Applying to college and auditioning for programs can be terrifying, so having security made the transition a lot easier for me and my parents. Now I’ll be able to focus on classes instead of worrying about finding a job to pay for them. The foundation has already made such an impact on my college experience, whether it be making friends or having the financial security. With the financial stability and resources the foundation gives us, we won’t fail unless we allow ourselves to.”
Through the financial and academic guidance of the Joint Admissions Medical Program, Hamza Uddin and Cresencio Adame IV have secured seats in one of the nine medical schools in Texas. Samson Ndukwe has been selected as an alternate for the program. Last year, Honors Ambassador Ashley Platero was selected for the program.

JAMP is a special program created by the Texas Legislature to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education.

In return, JAMP provides the financial and academic resources that allow them to excel, and those who maintain a 3.25 grade point average and earn a minimum score on the Medical College Admission Test are guaranteed admission to a medical school in Texas. Alternates receive academic support from JAMP and must maintain the same criteria. Only about 100 students from among all Texas universities have been selected to participate in JAMP.

“The process to get here has been long and difficult but very rewarding,” said Uddin, a sophomore health sciences major from Richmond. “But, if you want it bad enough, you will make the sacrifice,” added Ndukwe, a sophomore biomedical sciences major from Alief.

“We’re very excited to be a part of these students’ educational journey,” JAMP coordinator Kathleen Gilbert said. “They’re exceptional students and leaders who will make great doctors.”

Three students from the College of Business Administration attended the 10th Economics Scholar Program Conference for Undergraduate Research on April 1, held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Senior economics and international business majors Madeleine Mortimore and Nathaniel Mendoza-Sifuentes and junior economics and international business major Zane Pion participated in the event that was attended by students from 37 universities from 12 different states across the country.

Mortimore presented a poster based on her research on the effects of information and communications technology on the U.S. bilateral services exports. Her research shows that Internet users in trading partner countries have a statistically significant positive impact on the bilateral services exports from the U.S. to those countries. This effect is much stronger for developing countries. Mendoza and Pion served as discussants at the conference.

During the conference luncheon, the students also had an opportunity to interact with Rob Kaplan, president and CEO of FRB Dallas.

FRB Dallas also held an informal reception for the participants, interacting with students, informing them about job opportunities, and accepting resumes for various internship and regular positions.
Dr. Kimberly Bell and Dr. Maria Holmes were inducted as Honorary Members in the SHSU Golden Key International Honour Society in November 4, 2015. The organization celebrated 35 years of excellence at Sam Houston State University. Chapter President of Golden Key and former Honors College student, Darion Walton, opened the ceremony with remarks that highlighted the many years of service that members of Golden Key have contributed to the SHSU campus. Vice President and former Honors College student, Varion Walton introduced each of the new honorary members, and Dr. Kimberly Bell, Dean of the Honors College, provided the keynote speech.

Dr. Maria Holmes received notification that her recent article has been published in the Journal of Education Policy, Planning and Administration. In her article, "Increasing Participation in Advanced Placement and Decreasing Test Performance: Cause for Concern", Dr. Holmes analyzed data from Advanced Placement exams and ascertained the extent to which ethnic/racial differences were present in AP exam success rates. As a result of this study, Dr. Holmes concluded that a stair-step achievement gap postulated by Carpenter, et al. (2006) was affirmed. The analysis described the differences in AP exam success as follows: Asian students outperformed White students who out performed Hispanic students, who in turn outperformed African American students and this pattern was repeated consistently over 15 years of data.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT:

MERARY BAUTISTA

Studying bees doesn’t bug Merary Bautista.

The SHSU senior biology major has always had an interest in entomology; now, she is using that interest to assist College of Sciences Dean John Pascarella with his “buzz-worthy” research.

Bautista began working with Pascarella on a research project that involved collecting bees at the SHSU Center for Biological Field Studies and identifying the various species they collected in the lab in order to study populations of bees in Huntsville’s particular environment.

“When I was accepted to the McNair Scholars program I had to decide on a research project,” Bautista said. “I was interested in bugs and I hadn’t actually studied them yet, but I spoke with Dr. Sybil Bucheli, who focuses on forensic entomology, and she put me in touch with Dr. Pascarella.”

“I soon discovered that bees are actually really peaceful,” she said. “When they are feeding and foraging outside, they are concentrated on the task at hand, so they will generally leave you alone. As long as you stay away from their hives, there is a very low likelihood that you will get stung.”

According to Bautista, all of the sites at the center have different features, and each feature tends to attract different species of bee. After collecting the bees, Pascarella and Bautista proceeded to the lab to identify the different bee species they found. “Conducting research under the guidance of someone as accomplished as Dr. Pascarella has been such an amazing opportunity,” she said. “Thanks to this experience, I am confident and excited about my future as a researcher.”

FACULTY NOTES

Dr. Kimberly Bell and Dr. Maria Holmes were inducted as Honorary Members in the SHSU Golden Key International Honour Society in November 4, 2015. The organization celebrated 35 years of excellence at Sam Houston State University. Chapter President of Golden Key and former Honors College student, Darion Walton, opened the ceremony with remarks that highlighted the many years of service that members of Golden Key have contributed to the SHSU campus. Vice President and former Honors College student, Varion Walton introduced each of the new honorary members, and Dr. Kimberly Bell, Dean of the Honors College, provided the keynote speech.

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ALUMNI NOTES

John Jordan, 2003, is the Director of Academic Support Programs at Sam Houston State University and Adjunct Faculty member in the History Department. John received the Dean’s Award for Graduate Research, Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) in 2015 and recently earned his Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University.

Annie Miller, 2008, BBA Accounting, CPA, CFE, 2008, is a Senior Audit Professional, Global Audit, Nike, in Beaverton, Oregon. She received her Master’s in Professional Accounting (MPA) at the University of Texas, Austin. Annie served on the Young Professional Council for the Women’s Home, a non-profit center helping homeless women build job skills and whole life wellness.
## Spring 2016 Graduates

### College of Business Administration
- Jennifer McCaleb
- Lauren McCollum*

### College of Criminal Justice
- Laura Aguilar
- Jazzmyn Arrington
- Darian Barrow
- Olivia Boyna
- Sebastian Capola
- Gregory Daniels
- Stephanie Dyess
- Kacey Frazier
- Martha Gans
- Alondra Garza*
- Briana Gongora*
- Bailey-Anne Kaytar
- Gabrielle Marshall
- Luis Morales Jr.*

### College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication
- Taylor Beyer
- Miranda Colley*
- Marissa Hill
- Holly Kons
- Stephen Lusk
- Grace Ngo
- Lemmis Stephens III
- Zachary Toney
- Chelsea Womack
- Hannah Zedaker

### College of Health Sciences
- Ariel Brown
- Natalie Finley*
- Daniela Fuentes
- Ruth Lee

### College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Kathryn Doughty
- Rylea Ducote
- Haven Gomez*
- Reauana Hall
- Jami Horne
- Paige Odegard*
- Caitlin Oringderff
- Kaitlin Patterson*
- Callie Renaud
- Ariel Traub
- Samantha Weisinger

### College of Sciences
- Lorenzo Anderson
- Britney Gomer
- Allison Haase*
- Sarah Kavanagh
- Allyson Keathley*
- Babbie Suarez*

### College of Education
- Bridgette Bennett
- Carissa Brown
- Jenny Farris
- Katherine Schulte
Miranda Colley: Pursuing Forward: The Importance of Neuroscience in Solidifying a Juvenile Justice System that Adequately Addresses Delinquency in The United States. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Michael S. Vaughn
Natalie Finley: Healthcare in Zimbabwe. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Patrick Lewis
Alondra Garza: Assessing Responses to Sexual Assault Disclosure: The Role of Victim Race and Perpetrator Type. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Courtney Franklin
Haven Gomez: Is Endonuclease G Conserved in Chlamydomonas reinhardtii? Thesis Advisor, Dr. Anne Gaillard
Allyson Keathley: Is Endonuclease G Conserved in Chlamydomonas reinhardtii? Thesis Advisor, Dr. Anne Gaillard
Lauren McCollum: Analysis of The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010: Causes and Effects. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Elsie Ameen
Luis Morales Jr.: Los Zetas Cartel and their Presence in the United States. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Nathan Jones
Paige Odegaard: Filling the Generational Gaps: Building Student Confidence in Writing through Visual Rhetoric Interventions in the Composition Classroom. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Carroll Nardone
Kaitlin Patterson: Living Arrangements for the Elderly: Present and Future Considerations. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Victoria Titterington
Babbie Suarez: Morphology and Feeding Behavior of Oiceoptoma (Coleoptera: Silphidae) Beetles. Thesis Advisor, Dr. Sybil Bucheli

Lorenzo Anderson will attend University of Houston for his masters in Optometry.
Darian Barbow is now a Military Intelligence Officer, 2nd Lieutenant for the United States Army.
Sebastian Capola applied for both the Austin and Houston police departments.
Kathryn Doughty will attend graduate school at Arizona State.
Jenny Farris plans to be an elementary teacher in Conroe or Willis ISD, and return back to SHSU for her masters.
Natalie Finley applied for her residency at magnet hospitals, and plans to apply for graduate school for her nurse practitioner's license after three years of experience.
Daniela Fuentes is a registered nurse at Conroe Regional Medical Center and a divemaster for PADI.
Alondra Garza will attend Sam Houston State University for her masters in Criminal Justice and Criminology.
Allison Haase will attend graduate school at Colorado State University.
Jami Horne will attend Sam Houston State University for her masters in History.
Sarah Kavanaugh accepted a job with USAA in San Antonio, Texas.
Bailey-Anne Kaytar will attend Sam Houston State University for her masters in Homeland Security.
Allyson Keathley will attend Texas Tech School of Medicine.
Stephen Lusk plans to be a middle school band director in central Texas.
Jennifer McCaleb will be sitting for the CPA exams as audit staff for La Porte Public Accounting in Houston, Texas.
Lauren McCollum will attend Baylor School of Law.
Paige Odeguard will attend graduate school at Colorado State University.
Kaitlin Patterson will attend South Texas College of Law Houston.
Lemmis Stephens III plans to work with the mayor of Seattle or teach abroad with the peace corp after getting his masters in Global Media or Urban Geography.
Zachary Toney is employed as an intern with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.
# Save The Date!

## Honors College Calendar of Events

### Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Wake up with Honors, Honors Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Honors Assembly/ HSAC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Study Abroad Seminar Informational Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9-10</td>
<td>Friday-Saturday</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Honors Welcome Retreat, University Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>ProfSPEAK: Dr. Patrick Lewis, Evans 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Study Abroad Seminar Informational Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cultural Outing: Ren Fest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>ProfSPEAK: Dr. Pamela Zelbst, Center for Innovation and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13-15</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>National Collegiate Honors Council, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Pizza with Prof: Dr. Charles Heath</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>URS Informational Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>URS Informational Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Honors College Parents Luncheon, LSC Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Thesis Information Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Thesis Information Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Pizza with Prof: Dr. Aaron Lynne</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>ProfSPEAK: Dr. Gene Young, Evans 105</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Honors College Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>HSAC Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>HSAC Holiday Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Ambassadors Holiday Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Bowers Medallion Ceremony, LSC Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9-10</td>
<td>Friday, Saturday</td>
<td>9:30-2:30 PM</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honors Faculty and Staff

Kimberly Bell, Ph.D.  Dean
Maria Holmes, Ed.D.  Associate Dean, Newsletter Advisor
Patrick Lewis, Ph.D.  Associate Dean
Tracy Bilsing, Ph.D.  Assistant Dean
Connie Rodriguez  Administrative Coordinator
Kristyn Couvillion  Student Assistant
Enriqueta Cruz  Student Assistant
Gaby Rangel  Student Assistant
Conner Rousseau  Student Assistant
Shealynn Vogan  Newsletter Editor and Designer
Raynie Leard

Contributing Writers

Shealynn Vogan
Raynie Leard
Dr. Patrick Lewis
Jennifer Garrett

Honors Ambassadors

Lorenzo Anderson  Joshua McGinty
Merary Bautista Ordóñez  Denisa Micliuc
Kristyn Couvillion  Margaret Mitschke
Alondra Garza  Everett Moore
Haven Gomez  Grace Ngo
Addie Goodson  John Pinard IV
Amie Kas  Ashley Platero
Sarah Kavanagh  David Porter
Bailey-Anne Kaytar  Shealynn Vogan
Megan Lamberth  Rebecca Wood
Sarah Landsman  Lixin Zhang
Jessica Martinez

HSAC Officers

David Porter  President
Rachel Hunnicutt  Vice President