A Case for Honors Giving

Investing in The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College at Sam Houston State University benefits Honors students, as well as the entire campus and community. Providing advanced learning opportunities to academically motivated students raises SHSU’s visibility and competitiveness.

For our honors students, financial support provides advanced learning opportunities in an intellectually stimulating environment, such as:
- scholarships
- research
- study abroad
- study facilities

For our community, we are investing in the brilliant minds that will shape our future through research and cultural influence.

Since the College was established in 1987, more than 850 students have graduated. Hundreds more have participated in honors level classes or learning opportunities. The College continues to be increasingly competitive by attracting outstanding faculty and upper-echelon students, including national merit scholars.

Graduates from The Elliot T. Bowers Honors College go on to enhance our world through a variety of career and learning opportunities:
- 8% prepared for careers in teaching through the College of Education
- 13% prepared for law school or careers in law enforcement and security through the College of Criminal Justice
- 16% have enhanced our culture through the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication
- 29% explored the boundaries of science conducting research and practicing in the health fields through the College of Science
- 15% prepared for careers that strengthen our economy and competitiveness through the College of Business Administration
- 19% prepared for research, education and contributions to history, culture and the world through the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
HONORS COLLEGE ENDOWMENT PARTNERS

The Honors College seeks individuals, corporations, foundations and other entities who by their own standard of excellence understand the benefits of challenging exceptional students beyond normal limits. Money raised increases The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College Endowment for scholarships, travel for learning abroad, undergraduate research opportunities and other educational enhancements offered through the Honors College.

As an expression of appreciation for their investment, Honors College Endowment Partners benefit from:

• Recognition on the Honors College website
• Recognition on selected published materials of the college, such as brochures, newsletters, and LET’S TALK! marketing
• Invitation to Honors College student activities and events
• Recognition plaque for your office
• Recognition in the Honors College headquarters
• Complementary tickets to the annual LET’S TALK! event

LET’S TALK! ™

In addition to direct gifts to The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, one of the main sources of financial support is LET’S TALK!, an annual event produced by SHSU’s President’s Office. Nearly $250,000 has been raised through this event benefitting The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College Endowment, as well as providing supplemental funds for support of the programs, students and faculty.

Guests at LET’S TALK! are enthralled by the exclusive opportunity to actively discuss engaging topics with renowned experts who fill the evening with lively, entertaining and often challenging dinner conversation.

Previous discussion leaders include:

• Award-winning music composer Allen Shamblin
• HEB Houston president Scott McClelland
• 7-time NBA champion Robert Horry
• Movie director and producer Richard Linklater
• CBS News 48 Hours producer Jenna L. Jackson

SUPPORT THE HONORS COLLEGE

Please give to The Elliot T. Bowers Honors College. For more information about becoming an Honors College Endowment Partner or a LET’S TALK! sponsor, contact SHSU’s Office of University Advancement, (936)294-2402, letstalk@shsu.edu.
Why did you choose SHSU?
I knew nothing about SHSU before attending the school. I guess you can say I rolled the dice on a recommendation from a family member, who is an alumna of SHSU, and I am very glad I did. I am still reaping the returns and rewards on my decision to attend.

Why did you participate in The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College?
Based on my research on the Honors College, I was impressed with the curriculum, which proved be a very good academic test for me. I also wanted to surround myself with other students on campus who also wanted a more rigorous challenge.

What do you remember about the classes offered through the Honors College?
By analogy, I would describe them as a “deep dive” on substance. I particularly enjoyed my philosophy and history courses, which provided the deepest dive of them all.

What do you remember about the professors?
They were extremely knowledgeable and dedicated. They were all engaging, insightful, and went beyond the “walls” of the classroom to test our analytical skills and assumptions. They were demanding and expected nothing less than our absolute best.

Is there a particular professor you remember distinctly? Why?
Dr. James Olson, chair of the History Department. I can think of no other professor, either during my studies as an undergraduate or as a law student, who has had such a significant impact on my life – academically, professionally and personally. His commitment to helping students achieve their highest potential was unparalleled. He has mastered the art of teaching at every level, while demonstrating high ethics, loyalty, and an unfettered commitment to his family, the university, and his students.

How did you benefit from the Honors College?
I left Sam Houston State as a much better student, no doubt better able to compete at the next level in law school.

Why would you encourage people to give to the Honors College?
Support of the Honors College will position the university to recruit and retain the best and brightest faculty members and students, keeping the traditions of excellence, high learning, and achievement alive and well at the university.
Why did you choose SHSU?
In addition to the academic scholarship support, I liked the idea of attending a university that had a low faculty to student ratio. I felt in a smaller classroom environment I could receive more personal instruction and interaction with the professors, which would help me be more successful academically.

Why did you participate in The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College?
It was a combination of factors including scholarships, smaller class sizes, and the one-on-one assistance with my studies.

What do you remember about the classes offered through the Honors College?
The interaction between students and teachers and the wonderful people associated with the Honors College who were eager to help students succeed.

What do you remember about the professors?
Sam Houston has an amazing faculty who genuinely care about their students. Having the ability to create lasting memories and relationships with my professors is a unique opportunity that only SHSU can offer. You wouldn’t get to know your professors on a personal level at the larger universities.

Is there a particular professor you remember distinctly? Why?
Yes, several...Dr. Jack Turner was a great professor! I remember taking his ‘killer’ biology class (General Physiology) where we had to take a 6-hour written exam. The following semester, I was his teaching assistant in General Physiology. I still keep in touch with Dr. Turner. He was a great professor and a great friend while I was a student at SHSU.

Dr. Roy Moss, my archery instructor, also taught me how to make homemade pork sausage. My professors at SHSU took me in not only as a student but as a friend.

How did you benefit from the Honors College?
Being an Honors College graduate was a great asset to my resume – and it helped me get accepted into medical school. It opened up opportunities I might not have had otherwise.

Why would you encourage people to give to the Honors College?
The Honors College helps students excel in their own individual educational quests. The smaller class sizes, the personal interaction, and the unique opportunities the Honors College offers to students at SHSU is like none other.
For more information regarding donations, please contact:

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Huntsville, TX 77341-2537  
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For more information regarding the Honors College, please contact:

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