A Note from the Director

Welcome to Issue 1 of *The Dialogue*, the Sam Houston State Honors College Newsletter. Our recent upgrade from Honors Program to Honors College brings with it a higher level of distinction. In an effort to connect with more people through technology, we are introducing this newsletter, which will be available both online and in printed versions. In this way, current and prospective students, faculty, administrators, parents, and alumni can stay up to date with the news of the Honors College. Each issue will highlight the accomplishments of an alumnus, a professor, and a student. The issues will also feature a section written by and for the students. We are excited about this new endeavor and hope you are, too. Watch for the next edition of *The Dialogue*, the Honors College newsletter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gene Young
New Honors Student Advisory Council Officers

President: Thomas Merka, Mass Communication
Vice President: Jeremy Angus, Psychology
Secretary: Mary Gibson, Psychology
Historian: Cathy Luzadas, Criminal Justice

Hello honors students! Let me start by saying that I am ecstatic about being able to act as your HSAC president for the upcoming school year! The other officers and I are busy planning fun and exciting events for the fall semester that we know you're going to enjoy. Don't forget about the annual honors Luau on the Lake and the new Meet the Freshmen event that will take place your first week back at Sam! Make sure you check the Honors College Blackboard so you can keep track of all our events and outings. This year's officer team is motivated to make the Honors College more than something to have on your résumé. We want it to be a family! You can help us in achieving this goal by attending the events and building those strong ties of friendship that will make us a family. I look forward to seeing all of you at the luau!

Sincerely,
Thomas Merka - HSAC President
Spring 2010 Honors Graduates

Abigail Beard  Interdisciplinary Studies & Generalist EC-6
Linda Borja  Mass Communication
Sherah Bortz  Broadcast Journalism
Monique Broussard  Mass Communication
Kelsey Buffolano  Music Therapy
Laura Collier  Biology
Adriel De La Cruz  Criminal Justice
Reyna De La Cruz  Geology
Andrew Enriquez  Criminal Justice
Jessica Guderian  Psychology
Emalee Harmon  Criminal Justice
Amanda Haynes  Criminal Justice
Sara Henk  Chemistry
Megan Hilker  Accounting
Whitney Hunt  Criminal Justice
Heather Itzen  Mass Communication & Broadcast Journalism
Jason Johnson  Criminal Justice
Ashley Juge  Communication Studies
Jason Lamb  Accounting
Brittany Litaker  Criminal Justice
Kristen Mack  Forensic Chemistry & Criminal Justice
Sarah Martin  Forensic Chemistry
Clarita Mayorga  Spanish
*Sarah Murray  Psychology & Political Science *
Jonathon Myers  Mass Communications
Trisha O’Bryon  Chemistry
Ashley Pipkin  Chemistry for Professional Chemists
Dominic Pollone  Criminal Justice
Rachel Renshaw  Interdisciplinary Studies
Nelson Sheppard  Chemistry
Jennifer Setera  Criminal Justice & Political Science
*Brittney Singleton  Marketing *
Savannah Sipole  Political Science
Matheus Tozzi  Psychology
Heather Vincent  English & History
Veronica Ward  Accounting

* Denotes Graduation with “Highest Honors”

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go.”

~ Dr. Seuss

Congratulations Spring 2010 Graduates! You all have bright futures ahead!
Voices From Abroad

By: David Courtade

My twenty-second birthday was cut to seven hours. I boarded a flight in Vancouver, Canada around 11:00 a.m. on February 24, 2009 and arrived in Seoul, South Korea around 5:00 p.m. on February 25th. As the 25th is my birthday, I had seven hours left to the day, and I did not know one person in a country over 6,000 miles away from everything that was familiar to me. As birthdays mark a transition into another year of existence, this birthday led me into one of the most life changing years of my life. I created wonderful memories and learned lessons that will stay with me for life. I had the opportunity to meet students from all over the world and developed friendships that will last a lifetime. Studying abroad opened my eyes to new cultures and languages as well. Moreover, I traveled to countries such as Japan, China, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. I saw a whole different part of the world and received a type of education that I cannot find in a classroom. Choosing to spend two semesters at Soonchunhyang University in South Korea was one of the best decisions of my life.

For More Information on Study Abroad Programs Contact:
International Programs
936-294-3276
oip@shsu.edu

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” ~ Henry Miller

"Live well, Learn plenty, Laugh often, Love much." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Alumni Notes

2004 Grad Angela Croon is working as a Software Engineer for Owen Healthcare in Houston, TX.

2005 Grad Jeff Roberts received his Masters in History from SHSU and is now pursuing a PhD at Texas A&M.

2006 Grad Brett Finn is working on his Masters in Criminal Justice at SHSU, and is an intern with the FBI.

2007 Grad Brandon Waller is a Senior Accountant and Auditor for Null-Lairson, P.C. in Houston.

2008 Grad Emma Quintero studied Political Science at SHSU and is now in Law School at the University of Texas in Austin.

2009 Grad Jenna Sassie studied Chemistry, Biology, and Pre-med at SHSU and is now in Medical School at the University of Texas in Houston.

2009 Grad Jadrian Wooten received his MBA in Economics from SHSU and is going to Washington State University for his PhD.

2010 Grad Sarah Martin is pursuing her Masters in Forensic Science here at SHSU.
The Rush for Summer Jobs
By: Laura DuBose

As summer comes to full swing, the rush for a summer job becomes even more difficult. Not only is there more pressure to save up over the summer, but there seem to be fewer jobs. Many places have already hired for the summer and are no longer looking for employees. There is also the conflict between finding a job that is related to your future career or just a job to make some fast money. These are the sad facts of summer employment. Luckily, we are located in an area that offers many opportunities in exchange for a short commute. We also have resources that our competition, mainly high school students, do not have. Career Services offers the Jobs 4 Kats interface, where there is a search engine for jobs on campus and off campus. For those of you still looking for a job, this a pretty good place to start. The next option may be simply looking around and walking in to any place with a “Help Wanted” sign. If you’re lucky, you may get an interview. If not, there’s always the pool for the rest of the summer?

Summer In Puebla
By: Whitney Hunt

“Bienvenidos a Mexico.” I’d heard this welcoming phrase more than a few times on various trips to Mexico with my family to soak up the sun on some of their fabulous beach destinations. However, this time was going to be a little different. I was going to be on my own in a foreign country. This time it would be me, and an adult completely responsible for my own life, in a country where I could carry on a conversation but only concerning food and the location of the bathroom, in a foreign country with only my classmates and professor for help.

This whole idea started in the winter of 2009 when Dr. Koeninger, a professor of Spanish at Sam Houston State University, made a presentation about the study abroad program offered in the summer in Puebla, Mexico. It just so happened that the class that was being offered in Mexico was also one that I needed for my degree in criminal justice and one that would be necessary if I decided to pursue a minor in foreign language. The more I learned about the program the more interested I became. I even applied for a scholarship from the International Programs office and received one. That was my sign it was meant for me to go and I made plans then to head to Mexico and study Spanish for an entire month, known as the first summer session here at SHSU.

Upon arrival into Mexico City and then a bus into the state of Puebla, my family that was assigned to me by the Universidad Iberoamericana was waiting for me with a sign stating none other than “Bienvenidos Whitney,” or in English, “Welcome Whitney.” Immediately I was embraced literally and metaphorically into the arms of a welcoming family who didn’t know me other than a small picture and a paragraph about my interests and family. I could tell then that this was going to be one of the best experiences of my life.

I spent a little over a month in Puebla, living with my family, experiencing the culture, eating traditional food and homemade meals by my “mom,” and going to class at the Universidad Iberoamericana (a private prestigious university, one of six in the entire country of Mexico) being taught by my SHSU professor Monday through Friday. Tuesdays were spent with the other students of the program attending museums, hiking ancient ruins, and visiting cathedrals and churches in Puebla and the surrounding town of Cholula. All the while living on my street, Rio Balsas, with my Mexican parents and older sister and making life-long friends.

I still speak to my family regularly since leaving Mexico. The internet makes it easy nowadays to stay connected and I talk to them at least once a week. My Spanish will never be the same, as now I can communicate effectively and completely in Spanish (speaking Spanish twenty-four hours a day helps you learn quite quickly), which I certainly wasn’t able to do when I first landed in Mexico. I just declared myself to be a Spanish minor on my degree plan. Studying in Puebla really helped me appreciate and get to know a fantastic culture up close and personal as well as taught me about myself and my ability to continue to be adventurous and to try new things and experiences. When asked about study abroad programs now, I can confidently say “Go!” It’s one of the most amazing things you can do for yourself and an incredibly empowering experience. I plan on returning to visit my family hopefully this coming summer, and for all of the friends and relationships I made and built in Puebla, this one’s for you: “Viva Mexico.”

From and For the Students!
Student Spotlight

Yes, I am the editor of this Newsletter, but to expedite the process, this is my highlight!

I am a Musical Theatre Major with minors in Dance and Business, and I am a member of the Honors College. I try to keep a good balance between academics and dreams.

As a Junior Musical Theatre Major I am faced with the process of becoming a successful performer. So far, my endeavors have become rather fruitful. This summer, my roommate and I traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana. I was an extra in the new ABC TV Series “The Gates.” Look for my hand in episode five! Together we worked on a film called “Butter” starring Jennifer Garner, Ty Burrell, Hugh Jackman, Alicia Silverstone, and more. This will come out in 2011, and hopefully you will see me talking to Ty Burrell about butter because it totally happened.

One thing that I want to convey to all students, young and old, is that your dreams are possible. Whether you achieve them totally, like if I were to become a big movie star, or if you only get the experience, like being an extra and seeing the magic happen. Make sure to support your local arts!

Professor Highlight

In addition to teaching in the English Department Kimberly K. Bell, recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, serves as the assistant director of the university’s Honors College. She joined the SHSU faculty in 2002 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 2008. Her specialties are in medieval and classical literature, history of language, textual studies and genre theory.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from The American College of Greece, her master’s degree from Clark University, and doctorate from Georgia State University. Bell has co-written two books and several book chapters and journal articles and has made numerous conference presentations.

Her previous awards include the SHSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences Teaching Award in English and Who’s Who Among American Teachers.

“Dr. Bell is a dedicated professor who puts the needs of her students before herself. Her teaching style is welcoming and she takes a personal interest in her pupil’s learning. Her guidance ensures success.”

“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.” ~ Thomas Edison

“A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.” ~ W.H. Auden

Want to be featured in the next Dialogue?

Recommend yourself, a friend or a professor to the Honors College to be featured in the next newsletter. Please email or stop by with a name and why they should be in our featured section.
The title of “The Dialogue” was inspired by the efforts of the Honors College to enhance communication. Many of our efforts include interaction between people including the Let’s Talk Series and Difficult Dialogues Seminar. The Dialogue fits the Honors College standards for this newsletter. We want to provide the best news and information to this group of distinguished people at Sam Houston.

Upcoming Events
All Honors Applications due June 30
New Student Orientations June 24-25, July 8-9, July 15-16, July 22-23, and July 29-30
All incoming Honors Freshmen must be advised for Fall

August 24 is Honors Fun Day at 5:00 p.m.
August 29 is the Luau at Elkins Lake from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
August 31 is the Mandatory Honors Assembly
September 11 is Parents Weekend Luncheon
Noon
RSVP to the Honors College by Tuesday September 7

Please make sure to check your email, the website, and blackboard for all the information on Honors events.

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