



Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

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HONORS COLLEGE OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MAKING AN IMPACT



Two Honors College alumni are among the developing next generation of young professionals. SHSU *Heritage* magazine selected 13 graduates under the age of 30, on whom, despite what Oscar Wilde may have believed, youth has not been wasted.

Honors College Ambassador and 2014 graduate Samantha McKinley participated in the LEAP program, a management training program for BBVA Compass and accepted a permanent position in Dallas, where she lives with her fiancé and her puppy, Mayzie.

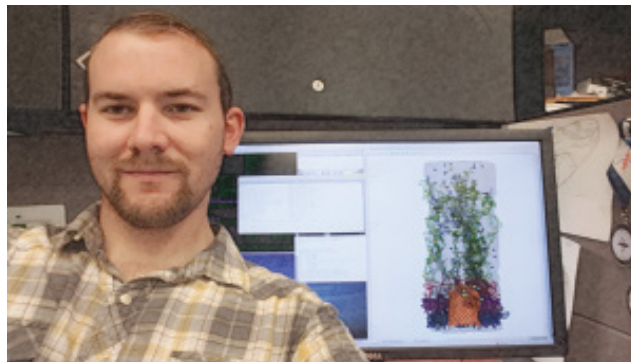
After graduating in May 2014, the 22-year-old Austin native moved to Birmingham, Alabama for six months, where she learned through the BBVA LEAP program about the company's many different jobs and determined where she could add the most value.

She knew from her time as a peer counselor in the SHSU Student Money Management Center that she loved helping people manage their finances which led her to accept a position as a global wealth relationship associate.

As for her future, McKinley plans to continue to learn and gain new experiences in the global wealth market so she can become a private banker which will allow her to provide specific financial services to her own clients and make sure they are satisfied.

The Dialogue

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SPRING 2016



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."

Baluske 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.

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NINTH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 9th URS was a resounding success! Over three hundred students, faculty, and family members attended the symposium, and we had the largest number of student scholars this year with 179 presenting in all disciplines. Students created research posters that filled the LSC ballroom, and the oral-media sessions held in CHSS took up three concurrent sessions! Faculty across campus served as our moderators and were energized by the quality of research that they witnessed. We are very proud of our undergraduate scholars and presented several scholarships. The recipients of the awards are as follows:

Assam Scholarship: Tyler Josephson-Lanham for his paper "When Numbers and Words Collide: The Hidden Mathematics in Geoffrey Chaucer's Book of the Duchess."

Best Overall Oral-Media-Panel Presentation: Miranda Sandlin for her paper "Espionage in the American Revolution: The Culper Spy Ring"

Best Overall Poster Presentation: Christiana Fakhri for her research poster titled "Jaw Musculature in Primates as an Effect of Evolutionary Dynamics Driven by Changing Dietary Habits"

The symposium is a major highlight of the University's initiative to foster student excellence in research. Students present their work in either oral-media sessions or in a research poster session, and each student receives constructive feedback from a faculty moderator. The Undergraduate Research Symposium also offers scholarship opportunities to presenters.

Paige Odegard, 2015 Poster Honorable Mention, attended the prestigious Naylor writing studies workshop. At this workshop, Paige extended the research that she presented at the URS in order to investigate the ways that writing is taught across the curriculum. The URS remains an exciting venture for all students and offers myriad opportunities for career advancement.



STUDY ABROAD: LONDON AND PARIS

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.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

SPENCER COPELAND

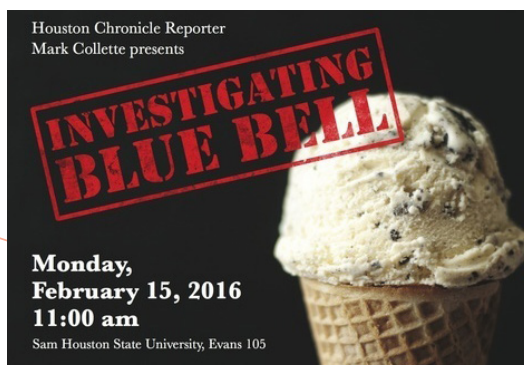
Spencer Copeland worked hard to ensure his legacy would leave a positive impact on the students of SHSU. Before graduating in 2015, he served as the president of the SGA, an Honors Ambassador, a member of Orange Keys, and a speaker at the "Let's Talk" fundraiser. Since returning for a master's, he became a student regent for the Texas State University System; the fourth SHSU student to hold the position since its creation in 2006. As a student regent, he attends board meetings and serves as a representative of the students from all eight schools in the university system. "It's my job to act as a voice and make sure student concerns are considered," Copeland said. His experience as SGA president prepared him for the responsibility of taking on this role.

Having worked with the board, Copeland recognizes his advantage. "As a student, you don't see where tuition dollars go or what makes up the numbers. Seeing it from their perspective gives me the upper hand. My duties involve bringing student perspectives to the board." He knows the experience will enable him to "understand and see the bigger picture." Copeland hopes to enter federal law, making the most of his time as student regent to further his future career.



HONORS SEMINAR SPOTLIGHT

BLUE BELL FIASCO



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.

"Patrick Lewis and I coordinated a team-taught interdisciplinary course for the Honors College on food politics," said Michael Demson, assistant professor of English. "We are exploring the ramifications of the industrialization of food production in the U.S. and are taking on the Blue Bell recalls of 2015 as a case study.

"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."



JOINT ADMISSIONS MEDICAL PROGRAM

CRESCENDIO ADAME, ASHLEY PLATERO, HAMZA UDDIN, SAMSON NDUKWE



Through the financial and academic guidance of the Joint Admissions Medical Program, Hamza Uddin and Crescencio 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."



STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

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.



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.

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 outperformed Hispanic students, who in turn outperformed African American students and this pattern was repeated consistently over 15 years of data.

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 Barbrow

Olivia Boyna

Sebastian Capola

Gregory Daniells

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*

Reauna 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



HIGHEST HONORS GRADUATE THESES:

Miranda Colley: *Purshing 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: *Used Little Things: Skin, Fingers, and Coffee.* Thesis Advisor, Dr. Scott Kaukonen

Briana Gongora: *Bystander Education: Exploiting the missing links in research.* Thesis Advisor, Dr. Kathleen Latz

Allison Haase: *Measurement of Prostaglandins and Leukotrienes as Markers of Inflammation in the Model Organism *Gambusia affinis*.* Thesis Advisor, Dr. Donovan Haines

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 Odeguard: *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

GRADUATE NOTES:

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

AUGUST 24	WEDNESDAY	8:00 AM	Wake up with Honors, Honors Lounge
SEPTEMBER 1	THURSDAY	4:00 PM	Honors Assembly/ HSAC Meeting
SEPTEMBER 7	WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	Study Abroad Seminar Informational Meeting
SEPTEMBER 9-10	FRIDAY-SATURDAY	3:00 PM	Honors Welcome Retreat, University Camp
SEPTEMBER 14	WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	ProfSPEAK: Dr. Patrick Lewis, Evans 105
SEPTEMBER 15	THURSDAY	4:00 PM	Study Abroad Seminar Informational Meeting
OCTOBER 9	SUNDAY		Cultural Outing: Ren Fest
OCTOBER 12	WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	ProfSPEAK: Dr. Pamela Zelbst, Center for Innovation and Technology
OCTOBER 13-15	WEDNESDAY		National Collegiate Honors Council, Seattle
OCTOBER 18	TUESDAY	4:00 PM	Pizza with Prof: Dr. Charles Heath
OCTOBER 25	TUESDAY	4:00 PM	URS Informational Meeting
OCTOBER 26	WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	URS Informational Meeting
OCTOBER 29	SATURDAY	12:00 PM	Honors College Parents Luncheon, LSC Ballroom
NOVEMBER 1	TUESDAY	4:00 PM	Thesis Information Session
NOVEMBER 2	WEDNESDAY	1:00 PM	Thesis Information Session
NOVEMBER 8	TUESDAY	4:00 PM	Pizza with Prof: Dr. Aaron Lynne
NOVEMBER 9	WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	ProfSPEAK: Dr. Gene Young, Evans 105
NOVEMBER 12	SATURDAY	11:00 AM	Honors College Open House
NOVEMBER 18	FRIDAY	6:00 PM	HSAC Thanksgiving Dinner
DECEMBER 2	FRIDAY	6:00 PM	HSAC Holiday Party
DECEMBER 4	SUNDAY	5:00	Ambassadors Holiday Party
DECEMBER 8	THURSDAY	11:00 AM	Bowers Medallion Ceremony, LSC Ballroom
DECEMBER 9-10	FRIDAY, SATURDAY	9:30-2:30 PM	Commencement

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Kristyn Couvillion	Margaret Mitschke
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