Vol. XII, ISSUE I

THE DIALOGUE

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

SPOTLIGHTING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF IN HONORS!

- GO FURTHER WITH US -

WE ARE HONORS!

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
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The "new normal" education that Sam Houston State University had to adjust to was wholly unpredictable. Every department, college, class, and office at SHSU was unexpectedly thrust online. In one week, everything changed.

Like our students, we at the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College had much to learn at the start of the change. The abrupt reliance on telecommunication technology like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Collaborate, GroupMe, and other remote connection to stay in touch with Honors students, faculty, and staff was overwhelming.

Nevertheless, we persevered to the best of our ability to finish out the hectic Spring 2020 semester strong.

With the start of the Fall 2020 term, the Honors College is determined to meet the needs of our Honors students in any way we can.

We have grown more confident in our ability to keep students engaged online and safely on campus.

Online, across a variety of our official social media platforms, we have revamped the design of our communications and events to help keep our students updated on and involved in all things Honors.

From posting Wisdom Wednesday illustrated quotes from our Honors Deans over the Summer online to converting our Wake Up with Honors event to a photo filter Snapchat bash, Honors is set on meeting students where they are.

On campus, with the safety of the entire university in mind, we plan on hosting hybrid events. In-person Honors events will continue to adhere to the necessary CDC guidelines by requiring face masks and social distancing.

Having a community that is ready and willing to keep each other safe is how we pulled off safe, in-person Honors events like our monthly Merch Giveaways and continued the 9/11 Remembrance Project tradition hosted by our Honors Ambassadors despite the odds.

Overcoming this public health crisis requires that we all do our part. Mask up, wash your hands, and keep social distancing. We can do this!
Dr. Jadrian Wooten graduated from SHSU in 2009 with a B.A. in Economics and Management and a minor in Entrepreneurship in 2009 and earned his MBA with an emphasis in Economics and Management in 2010. He went on to earn his PhD from Washington State University (2014) and become an award-winning educator at Penn State University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economic. + 

Q: Dr. Wooten, you recently donated $500 to the Honors College at SHSU. You are an Alumnus of both SHSU and the Honors College. What motivated you to donate such a generous amount to Honors?

When I was accepted to SHSU, the Honors College was the only scholarship Sam offered me. I would eventually earn scholarships through the COBA, but those were really the only departments that offered anything. I applied for university and alumni scholarships, but I was never awarded those. I know how important that scholarship was for my parents, so I make sure that most of my donations to SHSU are directed at either the Honors College or the Economics Department. + 

Q: Can you take us back to your undergraduate years as a member of the Honors College? Can you comment on how Honors impacted your time at SHSU?

The Honors experience was a pivotal part of my entire undergraduate career. I lived in the Honors dorm, with the same roommate, all four years I was on campus. My closest friends from Sam were all in the Honors Program with me, and we did everything together, from intramural sports to carpooling to cultural outings together. When I look back on my fondest memories as an undergrad, they almost always include some aspect of the Honors College: friends from the program, living in Spivey, or the Let's Talk Dinner. +

Q: Even though the Honors College is meant for undergraduates, can you comment on how the College impacted your graduate studies at SHSU?

Honors prepared me for seminar-style classes I would take in graduate school. I had never really taken other classes that had a large discussion component or that were taught by multiple faculty. By the time I started graduate school (both my MBA at Sam and my PhD at Washington State), the classes included a lot of discussion and often multiple professors. I felt comfortable with that style because of the honors seminars. +

Q: You are currently an award-winning researcher and Associate Professor at Penn State. Can you tell us a little bit about your research interests?

Most of my current work is economics pedagogy, which focuses on developing resources for educators to teach economics. These resources are primarily targeted at undergrad and high school courses. I was taught by some amazing faculty in the Economics department. My classes are significantly larger than they were at SHSU (the largest has 720!), but I try to teach them the same way I learned at Sam. It had such a positive impact on my life that I want to bring a bit of that to my students at Penn State. My secondary line of research focuses on sports economics. My dissertation was on the economics of Major League Soccer, and a lot of that had to do with the Houston Dynamo relocation while I was at Sam. My friends and I would go to a few games each year and that's what sparked my interest. I don't publish as much in sports economics because most of my time is spent on the pedagogy work. +

Q: You are well known for your work on the integration of media into the economic curriculum. Are you working on anything of note that you'd like to share?

I actually have a book that will be published this summer (June 2021) that teaches the principles of economics through the lens of Parks and Rec. It references scenes from the show to illustrate various economic concepts. I use a lot of pop-culture videos in my classes when I teach, and a publisher reached out about publishing that part of my work. Most of the work I'm actively involved in right now is focused on how to teach with other pop-culture shows like Moneyball, Superstore, or K-Pop music. I feel very fortunate that my job lets me watch a lot of TV shows and it's considered research. +

Q: Do you have any advice to offer current Honors undergraduates? Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

Get involved in every single possible thing you have time to do. I absolutely loved the smaller events like Pizza with a Prof or invited speakers. I loved getting to work on the Research Symposium or coordinating events with the Honors Council. It's really easy to skip smaller events because there are other things to do, but those were some of the best things I did when I was an undergrad. +

Read more from Dr. Wooten at www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/alumni/spotlight
A Tradition Continued, Despite The Odds

Despite the odds, students of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, Honors Ambassadors, and Terry Scholars helped complete a community service project tradition on campus in honor of those lost during the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001.

In areas around the Sam Houston State University clock tower and in front of the Bobby K. Marks Administration Building our students helped plant 2,977 American flags on Thursday, Sept. 10, to commemorate the attacks that occurred nineteen years ago.

Considering the challenges of the time because of the Covid-19 pandemic, student volunteers were initially concerned that they were not going to be able to continue this tradition. Thankfully, they endured!

Determined to continue this tradition, Honors looked at what we would have to adjust in our schedules and in our plans to ensure we not only planted the 2,977 American flags, but also adhere to Covid-19 CDC safety guidelines.

Project founder and former Honors College Ambassador President Kayla McCarns, who planned and organized the project in its entirety, reached out and expressed her glee for the continuation of the event.

“I’m so glad you all continued this project! Thank you.” McCarns said. We were happy to keep it going.

To keep our students engaged, healthy, safe, and on track to earn their Honors event engagement points, we invited everyone to visit the clock tower, take a photo or selfie near the event, share it, and tag us on social media.

We received dozens of notifications and emails from dedicated Honors students like Gabrielle Butler.

We were pleased to learn that Gabrielle was among our student volunteers the day before. Honors is determined to keep this project going well into the future. With students like Gabrielle in our ranks, we are certain we can keep this tradition going!
The strength of the Honors Community at SHSU relies on the broad intellectual, academic, cultural, and social stimulation and engagement of our students year to year.

The Honors College mission is to facilitate the personal and professional growth of our students.

One of the most important ways in which we fulfilled that mission, is through our traditionally hosted in-person events.

The Covid-19 pandemic, as it did to everything, everywhere, turned our traditional calendar on its head.

**REMIXING THE EVENTS CALENDAR**

*From ProfSPEAK! to Pizza with a Prof!*

Students at Cultural Outing. Photo provided by Cecilia Hendrickson.

Pandemic looming and steered by CDC guidelines, The Honors Team had to strike a balance between the critical safety and prized involvement of our students and overall Honors Community.

We are proud to say, we at Honors struck that balance!

Our Honors Ambassadors, HSAC officers, Faculty, and Staff made every effort to adapt our term calendars, follow the guidelines, effectively accommodate hybrid events, digitize our outreach to stay in contact with our students, rally the Honors Community, and keep everyone on campus safe.

We could not have done it without an outstanding team and body of such willing and caring students. Eat ‘Em Up Kats! 🙌
Lorenzo Baeza, 2019, BS, in Biological Sciences. Lorenzo is attending The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, TX and pursuing his Doctor of Medicine degree.

Mercia Bakouetila, 2017, BS, in Health Sciences. In 2020 Mercia also received her Ph.D. in Physical Therapy. She is an advocate for Health Literacy, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Kristyn Couvillion, 2017, BS, in Criminal Justice, Minor in Legal Studies. She is pursuing a law degree at the Paul M. Herbert Law Center, LSU, where she is Junior Associate on Volume 80 of the Louisiana Law Review. She is also a Criminal Law Academic Tutor.

Christina Davis, 2018, BS, in Psychology. She is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Hubbard ISD.

Reneshia Gilder, 2020, BA, in Mass Communication, Minor in Music. She is seeking her master’s degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Brianna Hickman, 2020, BBA, Human Resources Management and Services. She recently joined Amazon as a Senior Human Resources Assistant in Bakersfield, California.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR ALUMNI NOTES?
Email your notes to: honors@shsu.edu

**FALL 2020 Alumni Notes**

JULISSA ALVAREZ

Senior Julissa Alvarez is not only an Honors student, but is also an Honors Ambassador, Orange Key member, LAE member, URS Co-Chair, and Resident Advisor passionate about getting out there and giving back to the community.

Driven to attend SHSU for its distinguished Criminal Justice program, Julissa cites her passion for service and Honors College membership as her motivations to get and stay engaged on campus. She recalls her difficulty adjusting to both college life and the distance between herself, her home, and her family.

Attending the Honors Welcome Retreat event during her first year helped entice her out of her comfort zone, introduced her to one of her first best-friends, and was even where she was encouraged to apply to become an Honors Ambassador.

Recently accepted as a 2020-2021 Honors Ambassador, Julissa became one of the leaders that she recalls looking up to and desiring to be. She wanted to help other students find their way in the same community that helped and benefited her college experience at Sam.

**“Being a part of the Honors College had such a positive impact on my involvement on campus.”**

Her advice for students who also want to get involved on campus, “Go for it!”

Being engaged opened so many doors and provided her with one of the best college experiences. Honors is proud to have students like Julissa!

JACQUELINE JIMENEZ

Honors student and Terry Scholar, Senior Jacqueline Jimenez not only works as a Chemistry TA, but also has published her academic research.

She cites being a recipient of the Terry Foundation Scholarship as the reason why she can pursue a major she is passionate about.

**“The Terry Scholarship has allowed me to be the first person in my entire family to obtain a STEM related degree.”**

Inspired by other TAs, through her job as a Chemistry TA, she works to help her students excel in the lab and to be someone they can look to for advice.

For example, she is a stellar role model for students interested in publishing academic research. Her published work is a Calculus II optimization-based project that she completed by working with her COSET Dept. Professor Dr. Trujillo and peers to write a paper titled “AM-GM Any Baby’s BMs.”

The purpose of this project was to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of reusable diapers and to identify a method for quantifying the costs associated with the product.

Jacqueline recommends that students be “knowledgeable of professors who do research in a particular subject that you are passionate about.”

As an upcoming graduate, Jacqueline wants incoming students not to fear stepping outside of their comfort zones or talking to their peers, professors, or TAs when needing help. The doors that could open are limitless. Honors agrees.
HSAC CULTURAL OUTING

While The Fall 2020 semester certainly presented many challenges for the Honors Student Advisory Council and the organization’s traditional event calendar, we are pleased to note that planning and holding a social gathering like our Cultural Outing event was not impossible. Due to COVID-19, social distancing regulations on transportation prevented HSAC from hosting the customary Cultural Outing. However, this did not mean there was no alternative.

HSAC officers wanted to create an event where students could socialize and learn about different cultures while still following Covid-19 protocols. The officers put together an outdoor picnic with sandwiches and music. They invited Honors students to each bring something special that represented their culture to share in an after-dinner show-and-tell.

Almost all the RSVP spots were filled and when students arrived, they each were treated to a personal lunch box. Honors students took turns choosing music to share with the group while enjoying sandwiches. Afterwards, during the show-and-tell, everyone learned about one another’s cultures and respective traditions, and each student told the story behind the artifact they had brought.

Students who had not brought an item to show shared a story about their family and culture instead.

We are proud to share that our Honors Student Picnic was a cinch! 🍖

Photos taken by Cecilia Hendrickson.
Article written by Cecilia Hendrickson
Edited by Kennedy Mendes.

CULTURAL ARTIFACTS PRESENTED

• Antique Shaving Blade, still sharp
• Guyanian Handmade Necklace with delicately jeweled cross
• Jarrito, a small glazed Mexican Mug (Pottery)
• Parasol and Photograph that depicts the New Orleans tradition of Second Line (Parades)
• Wooden Venezuelan decoration made of tiny houses mounted on a plaque, brightly painted
• Silver Chinese coin called a “Fat man Dollar” for the engraved portrait of Yuan Shih Kai.
With a year to prepare, the 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was successfully converted into an interactive and engaging virtual experience that went live on April 24, 2021. This university-wide academic conference has been hosted at the Sam Houston State University Huntsville campus since 2006. The URS is led by Dr. Tracy Bilsing, Honors College Assistant Dean, and a few select Honors Ambassadors who serve as URS Co-Chairs. This year’s URS Co-Chairs were Julissa Alvarez, Olivia Heide, and Anubhav Thakur.

Unlike the 13th Annual URS last year, this year’s conference was better prepared to adapt to the challenges and restrictions set due to COVID-19. This year’s conference was effectively streamlined and organized on the official Honors College YouTube Channel. For instance, when attendees logged onto the Honors URS Website, they were greeted by a welcoming and instructive YouTube video that directed them to the virtual 14th Annual URS program on the website.

Audiences and event Moderators alike could easily access each student’s uploaded research presentation by clicking on individual hyperlinks located in the event program.

While digitizing a traditionally in-person conference like the Annual URS was no easy feat, the URS Team is proud of the technical and communicative strides made and the effort they put in to ensure the event successfully took place.

Honors is proud of the determination of the URS Team, the production quality of the virtual conference, and the dedication of the URS student presenters who make it all worth it!

Winners

Best Overall Poster: Ellen Thompson
Honorable Mention Poster: Rhiannon Champagne
Honorable Mention Poster: Lance Sebesta
Best Overall Oral Media: Gwendolyn Squires
Honorable Mention Oral Media: Clara Lusby
Honorable Mention Oral Media: Stephanie Villagomez
Graduating Senior Award: Anubhav Thakur
Lagniappes Award: Tanny Carmona
Deans’ Choice Award: Kelly Martinez and Kailee Smith
EURECA FAST Award: Annisa Islas, Cooper Neidecker, and Bree Maldonado
Ambassadors’ Choice Award: Kismot Kamal

The 14th Annual URS Awards Ceremony was hosted by Dr. Tracy Bilsing. Award announcers featured included Dr. Madhusudan Choudhary, Dr. Hiranya Nath, and the URS Co-Chairs.

Photo taken by Kismot Kamal of the URS 2021 Award recipients. From Left to Right: Kelly Martinez, Ellen Thompson, Rhiannon Champagne, and Stephanie Villagomez

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Elliott T. Bowers Honors College

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Meet Our New Faculty In Residence!

Dept. of COSET
Professor Dr. Mahdi Safa

Dr. Mahdi Safa is a faculty member in the College of Science and Engineering Technology at Sam Houston State University.

He is presently pursuing research on the design and optimization of supply chain processes, maritime/coastal/port construction, modeling and simulation, energy systems, and the integration of new technologies in mega-projects.

He has more than fifteen years of broad management experience, specializing in planning, budgeting, organizing, and controlling resources, procedures, and protocols.

Dr. Safa has a unique combination of engineering and business development expertise with a Ph.D. and Master’s in Construction Management, Industrial Engineering, and Business Administration.

He has received several research and teaching awards and has numerous academic publications.

We’re pleased to welcome aboard and introduce our New Faculty in Residence at Piney Woods Honors Residence Hall. We’re proud to have someone as qualified as Dr. Mahdi Safa on the team! 

Photo provided by Dr. Maria Holmes

Megan Kimes, 2020, BS, in Interdisciplinary Studies, Minor in 4-8 ELAR/SS. She is a 5th grade teacher for reading and social studies at Splendora ISD.

Jennifer Ormond, 2007, BA English, MA History, is pursuing her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at SHSU. In January 2021, she joined Texas A&M University as the Program Coordinator for the Commercial Banking Program.

Vanessa Quintanilla, 2017, BA, Criminal Justice and Corrections. She earned her master’s degree in Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington in 2021. She works with the CPS Conservatorship at Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Rubin Sandlin, 2017, BS, Psychology, 2020, M.A. Sociology, is a licensed P&C Insurance Agent in Texas and an Accountant Executive at Goosehead Insurance Agency in Houston, Texas.

Mackenzie Staber, 2017, BA, in Criminal Justice and Police Science. She recently earned her master’s degree in International Security at George Mason University. She is a Security Analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia.

Noah Zavala, 2019, BS, in Biomedical Sciences. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Houston College Optometry.

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honors@shsu.edu

Piney Woods Hall is SHSU’s newest housing facility. The Honors Community resides in the complex on the top floor.

Question? Learn more about on-campus housing at shsu.edu/reslife or contact honors@shsu.edu.

Elliott T. Bowers Honors College
Dr. Ashton Mouton

For just over 3 years now, Dr. Ashton Mouton has been an Assistant Professor of Business Communication in the Department of General Business and Finance at Sam Houston State University. In the early years of the Honors College as an Honors undergraduate living in Spivey House, helped by then Honors Dean Dr. Young, Dr. Mouton completed her Honors Thesis. In Honors, she gained a support structure that helped her succeed in her classes, in college, and also revealed a personal love of research.

Citing these positive experiences in Honors, Dr. Mouton knew immediately that she would accept a position on the Honors Council when it was offered to her.

She wants students who have any interest in research at all to be aware of the ample opportunities available to them in Honors to help build and gain the skills and experience necessary for conducting, writing, and presenting research.

Professor Melissa Glasscock

As a professor of Animation at Sam Houston State University’s Art Department, Professor Melissa Glasscock has taught 2D Animation, 3D Character Animation, and the exclusively senior Animation Portfolio course for almost 6 years now.

Art Department faculty do not often receive Honors Course Contract Proposal requests from Honors students, so she was surprised to receive two at once.

Those two requests were the first she had ever received. She helped her students develop artistically driven Course Contract projects by first asking them to determine their goals. Then, she worked with each student to design a project that would help them achieve their goals, both for school and the animation industry. Both contracts were completed in her 2D Animation course during the Spring 2020 term.

“I love it when students want to create work outside of what we normally do in class.”

Impressively, the abrupt switch to remote learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic did not stop her students from meeting with her to fulfill their contracts. In fact, it is with these students that Professor Glasscock is currently producing a blended 2D and 3D animated short.

Professor Glasscock would love to work with more Honors students in the future! Especially in her 2D and 3D Character Animation courses.
Internship Spotlight
Michelle Wilson

During the Fall 2020 semester, with the goal of gaining experience and learning in a real-world, professional environment in preparation for her future, Junior Melissa Wilson began looking for meaningful local internships to apply for.

Toward the end of the semester, one of the applications she sent was to the Center for Law, Engagement, and Politics (LEAP) for acceptance into their “City Fellows” Program.

“My advice to peers who are interested in internships is to take advantage of the resources available at SHSU.”

Michelle was soon called back for several interviews by the LEAP Center. And ultimately, her application was accepted.

Through the LEAP Center’s “City Fellows” program, Michelle interned with the City of Huntsville Parks & Leisure Department guided by internship coordinator Mike Yawn and the Parks Manager John Agey.

“The goal of the internship is to gain skills in a work environment, build my resume, and have opportunities for professional networking.”

Michelle has observed official department meetings and participated in projects where she learned about the inner workings of a city government and the varying important roles of each level which frame and cultivate a functioning community.

Though she is not entirely sure of her future, Michelle is certain it is somewhere in the legal field as she hopes to attend law school following her graduation.

Michelle highly recommends her mentors and the LEAP Center’s “City Fellows” Internship Program to peers who are also interested in political science.

Honors is proud to have such dedicated and active students like Michelle in our College. ♦
Citing a personal incident during his freshman year at Sam Houston State University, the development of Anubhav’s idea for his thesis is rooted in an interesting question. This question would both guide and be the title of his thesis: “Does source of funding (for higher education) affect how we perform in college and our post-graduation labor market outcomes?”

If it is true that education is a socio-economic ladder for many, Anubhav wants to know how society can ensure that more people have access to meaningful sources of financial funding for higher education to help change lives and overcome racial and gender related injustices.

“Education has been an important part of my life. My childhood experience showed me that education is a socio-economic ladder for many.”

Anubhav has already presented his research at the 2020 Economics Scholars Program hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas, TX.

Before his graduation, he also presented at both the 13th and 14th annual Undergraduate Research Symposiums hosted by the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College with his research partner Falomy Eugene.

“From researching this topic and working on my thesis, I feel more equipped in conducting academic research in the future. I feel comfortable reading academic journals and making sense of it,” Anubhav notes.

Anubhav’s academic and professional accomplishments are also tied to his life and experiences in the Honors College at SHSU.

As an Highest Honors graduate, Honors Ambassador, and more recently the Honors Ambassador President, he has been an incredibly active member of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College.

“Being an Honors Student has allowed me to thrive in a community that fosters academic excellence.”
Students travel the coast and across state lines

At the end of the Spring 2021 semester in May, Honors students enrolled in one of the three Honors May-Mester Field Study Seminars traveled across state lines and along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Each trip’s itinerary and purpose was tailored to the distinct fields of study and departments that Professors Dr. Jeffrey Littlejohn (History), Dr. John Strait (Geography), and Dr. Jeff Wozniak (Biology) represent.

For Dr. Littlejohn’s Honors May-Mester course “From Slavery to Civil Rights”, students traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to visit sites significant to the Civil Rights Movement.

They were able to visit the Freedom Riders Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

“One of the reasons I registered was that I wanted to do something out of state that wasn’t only fun, but a great chance to try some soul food.” Said Cecilia Hendrickson, one of the students that enrolled in Dr. Strait’s seminar.

“The highlight of our trip was when we visited Red’s, one of the last authentic Juke Joints in Mississippi.”

Finally, during Dr. Wozniak’s seminar “Exploring the Texas Gulf Coast, students were able to explore the Guadalupe Estuary, study distinctive local aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, the culture of coastal cities, and enjoy beach and kayak outings in their spare time.”
Kaylee Campbell: Fighting the Monster Inside: Conflict Between Monstrosity and Humanity in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein

Taylor Frick: Ecology, Trading, Poaching, and Hypothesized Localized Governmental Power in Africa

Shani Gomez: Key Drivers for Suicides in Construction within the United States

Jeffrey Joyce: Psychopathy

Matthew McGrenera: God, Self, and Identity: A Comparative Examination of Eastern and Western Philosophy of Religion

Isabelle Muniz: How is Romantic Attachment Related to Stress in College Students

Carolina Nunez: Giving Voices to Youth in Community Disaster Mitigation: Texas Case Study

Brittany Prewitt: Loopholes, Eccentricities, Nuisances, and Other Reckless Adventurers


Graduate Notes

Katelyn Allen is attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration.

Briana Callaway is attending the Thurgood Marshall School Law and pursuing a Juris Doctor degree.

Paige Delgado is attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's of science degree in Criminal Justice.

Joshua Ellison is pursuing a Crime Scene Investigator position at Law Enforcement departments located in Dallas, TX.

Paige Delgado is attending Sam Houston State University and pursuing a master's of science degree in Criminal Justice.

Briana Callaway is attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX to pursue a master's degree in Health Informatics.

Jordan Newsome is attending Sam Houston State University to pursue a master's degree in Forensic Science.

Gustavo Salazar is working as a Staff I Accountant at the EY Accounting Firm located in Houston, TX while pursuing both a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Public Accountant certification.

Jessica Thielemann is planning on attending a Doctoral Physical Therapy School to pursue a doctor's degree in Physical Therapy.

Genesis Veleros is working as a victim's advocate for a non-profit organization that focuses on representing survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Zachary Willey is employed with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a State Trooper while considering advanced careers within the USDA or Homeland Security.

*Denotes Highest Honors
Graduate Notes

Julissa Cantu-Alvarez is attending a Texas Law Program and hopes to start pursuing her Juris Doctor degree during the Fall 2021 term. Kelly Akiura hopes to work for the Women’s Center, Crisis Hotline, or Victims Advocacy. Karen Barajas is attending a university in Pennsylvania to obtain her M.A. Ines Caquill is pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Washington or Nevada State after she obtains her M.A. Maria Del Valle plans to work as a professional actuary evaluating the likelihoods of future happenings. Brianna Ecolango is attending graduate school to earn a M.A. in Forensic Science. Julisa Garcia hopes to attend Johns Hopkins University to obtain an M.A. in Communication and an MBA. Millicent Hendrix is pursuing a M.A. in Clinical Psychology. Syasya Ismail plans to find a position in the Data Science field. Alexis Lopez is attending Sam Houston State University to pursue a master’s degree in Criminal Justice Leadership Management. Andre Mattox is pursuing a graduate degree in Counseling. Tori Nunn plans to teach English and a second language along with becoming an international choreographer. Gwendolyn Squires is applying to M.A. and Ph.D. programs. Anubhav Thakur plans to graduate school and pursue a Ph.D. in Economics. Camree Ulbricht is looking for an Elementary School teaching position in Conroe, Texas. Joana Vaca is returning to Sam Houston State University to earn a master’s degree in Criminal Justice or Psychology. Emily Warren is attending the University of Texas to obtain her MA.

College of Arts and Media
- Taylor Gange
- Julia Garcia
- Allura Guerra
- Zahnya Johnson
- Elise Mathis

College of Business Administration
- Toch Kim
- John Ohiani-Jegede
- Taylor Swearingen

College of Criminal Justice
- Taylor Appetéhans
- Ronni Cantrell
- Julissa Cantu-Alvarez
- Samantha Campos
- Valeria Garza
- Ruben Garzoria
- Fizza Gilani
- Jacintha Gutierrez
- Avery Hawkins
- Millicent Hendrix
- Syasya Ismail
- Akiura Kelly
- Bianca Lozano
- Alexis Lopez
- Makala Lofitis

College of Education
- Emma Berthelsen
- Helen Hill
- Roshaud Johnson

College of Health Sciences
- Karen Barajas
- Sarah Bigham
- Bethany Leander

College of Humanities and Social Science
- Ellie Bragg
- Laura Cravy
- Millicent Hendrix
- Cristian Hill
- Matthias Litzmann
- Andre Mattox
- Shannon Miller
- Cynthia Rodriguez

College of Science and Engineering Technology
- Cailee Auck
- Jessica Castillo
- Ines Caquill
- Samantha Clem
- Kayla Clement
- Brianna Ecolango
- Abisag Flores
- Joseph Green III
- Dorothea Hudson
- Ashley Koenig
- Makenzie Kuehn
- Joshua Lewis

Department of Accounting
- Tori Nunn
- Braine Russell
- Victoria Tamez
- Kaleigh Van Derostyne

Department of Human Development
- Hunter Troell
- Alexis Villarreal
- Lindsay Waldo

Department of Legal Studies
- Andrea Morales
- Marcella Moreno
- Chardonnay Morgan
- Madison Niemeyer
- Nneka Nnaji
- Jesus Rodriguez
- Shelby Samples
- Cassandra Scarpato
- Jasmine Silva
- Tyler Stanley
- Joana Vaca
- Emily Warren
- Kennedy Williams
- Dejah Washington

Department of Management
- Daniella Puente
- Kaitlynn Toorcanah
- Camree Ulbricht
- Mariana Sanchez
- Imani Williams

Department of Psychology
- Odalys Romero
- Jasmine Silva
- Gwendolyn Squires
- Joana Vaca
- Dejah Washington
- Ilexus Williams
- Hannah Willingham
- Alfredo Zavala

*Denotes Highest Honors