



# The Dialogue

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(Group Photo Sept. 2012)

## HONORS SEMINARS

**The Journeys Seminar**, started in Fall of 2011, is one of the most popular seminars offered by the SHSU Honors College. This class takes students on a journey through the lives of many successful faculty members at SHSU. This year, one of the many presenters who had a significant influence on students was Lieutenant Colonel David Yebra, a military science professor. He told the students about the impact that one moment can have on a person's life. LTC Yebra served in the

military for 22 years and is the recipient of four Bronze star medals. His presentation to the students really showed them the value of life, particularly of taking advantages of the opportunities that come our way. In 2011, Yebra was selected as the Professor of Military Science of the Year from more than 270 universities around the country. His story was one of the many inspiring stories that the students heard in the course this semester.

honors seminars cont'd on page 6

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SAHABIA AHMED

The Texas State University System's first Regents' Scholar is one of our Honors Ambassadors. Out of 80,000 eligible students in the Texas State University System, Sahabia Ahmed, a senior Honors student at SHSU from Tanzania was chosen. "There is one quote that I live by," said Ahmed. "To try and fail is better than to fail to try."

Ahmed was selected based on her outstanding academic achievement, a perfect 4.0 GPA, and scholarship in her studies. During her freshman year her essay on the SHSU motto was recognized as "Best Freshman Essay." Her presentation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium also won an award.

Academic achievement was not the only factor contributing to her success. Ahmed's strong co-curricular leadership and notable

contributions to her community also made her stand out as a candidate. She is the president of the International Student Organization, an ambassador in the Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, an economics and business analysis tutor for the SHSU economics department, a student advisor for the Nepalese Student Association and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society for students in the business disciplines.

During her "free time" Ahmed serves as the leader for SHSU's "Course Hero," an organization that donates books to Africa. She also works for the University Counseling Center, taking notes for the visually impaired. After graduation, Sahabia plans to attend law school and become a corporate attorney.



### EXCELLENCE ON THE TRACK:



One Honors Student hopes to bring glory to SHSU through Track and Field. Decathlete Oliver Dubiel, a sophomore International Student from Germany, has a passion for both school and sports. "I really love Economics," said Dubiel, "but I'm passionate for running. I'm fast." In fact, Dubiel plans to compete in the Spring 2013 Conference. He runs at least four hours a day, training for victory.

Dubiel strives to achieve success academically as well. He was on the President's Honor Roll in fall 2011 and the Dean's List last spring. As an international business major, he plans to apply for graduate school. "My first choice is SHSU, of course. I'm really dedicated to my school." He plans to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration.

## HONORS IS ROTC TOUGH:

“I want to make a life out of serving my country.” This is the dream of one of our senior Honors students, Forrest LeBlanc, who has been in ROTC since the beginning of his college career. “It really becomes your life; the daily routines really help shape the person you become,” said LeBlanc, a history major minoring in both military science and Middle Eastern studies. Fluent in Arabic, Spanish, and French, LeBlanc is truly dedicated to his calling.

This dedication is apparent in his involvement within ROTC. He made the Schuder’s Rangers his freshman year, being selected for the “Outstanding Scroll” as a sophomore. “That was a really big honor to me,” said LeBlanc. The ROTC program sent him, along with two others, to attend

Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, the following summer. LeBlanc was on the Color Guard for almost his entire college career, attending every home football game and many community events. During his free time, he plays intermural football on the ROTC team.

In May, LeBlanc will advance as a Distinguished Military Graduate, ranking top 20% in the nation for grades, fitness, and leadership qualities. He plans to apply for graduate school at SHSU to pursue his Master’s in Military History. After that he will commission as a Second Lieutenant and Infantry Officer, going to Infantry BOLC then Ranger School at Ft. Benning. His top choices for his first duty station are the 173rd Airborne in Vicenza, Italy, and the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: TODD PRIMM

Todd Primm, Associate Professor of Biology at Sam Houston State University who also teaches Honors Biology classes, was named one of 40 college biology educators nationwide to help reform how life sciences are taught in post-secondary institutions. The Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education program (PULSE) selected the individuals as Vision and Change Leadership Fellows to identify and consider ways to eliminate barriers to changes that are needed to improve undergraduate life sciences education.

“The PULSE project is very ambitious,” said Primm. “It seeks to reform teaching of life sciences at all institutions of higher learning in the United States. Undergraduate biology education needs to be transformed to match our current understanding of learning psychology and educational pedagogies.” Dr. Primm was one of three Biology professors chosen from more than 250 applicants. We are fortunate to have him as one of our key Honors College faculty.





# INTERNSHIPS AND STUDY ABROAD

## INTERNSHIP WITH ABC NEWS:

Houston's ABC News selected one of our Honors ambassadors to intern for them this summer. Junior Miranda Landsman was one of three students in the nation to intern as a journalist with KTRK Channel 13. "It was an invaluable experience," said Landsman, who studies broadcast journalism and political science. As an intern, she wrote and produced news stories under the supervision of staff reporters. "Journalism is something that I've always been passionate about. It is truly my calling."

Journalism isn't her only passion. Landsman is also very dedicated to studying government politics. In fact, she is doing an internship at the State Capitol in the spring for the 2013 Texas Legislature. "The Capitol Hill internship is an amazing opportunity. I'm truly honored to be chosen."



## TRIP TO CHINA:

Four of our Honors Students traveled to China this summer with The College of Business Administration. Thilo Schumacher, Sahabia Ahmed, Sebastian Roling, and Rachel Allen studied marketing and economics with Chinese students at Beijing University. The students also traveled across the country, visiting historical landmarks like the Beijing Palace and the Great Wall of China. "My favorite part of the internship was observing the culture," said Rachel Allen, international business major. "It was so different in comparison to ours." Overall, Allen said her experience was one that she will never forget. "I would definitely recommend it. It truly changes your perspective."



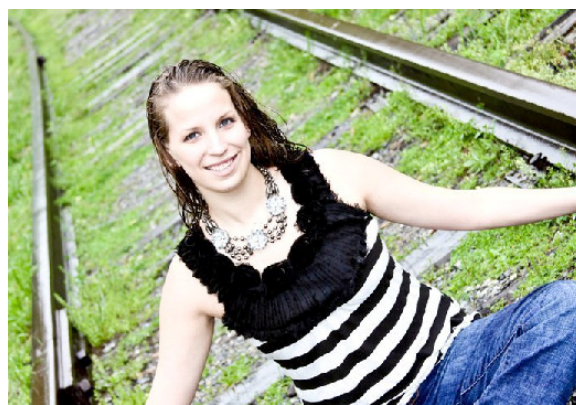
## HONORS SEMINARS CONTINUED:

"Be the People" became a slogan around the campus this fall. It originated from a group of Honors students that wanted to make a difference. "We realized that so many of us have no idea how to even begin the voting process," said Sarah Landsman, a freshman double majoring in biology and chemistry. "We wanted to help our class take part in the 2012 election. We wanted to answer that 'I'm 18, now what?' question." The group members set

up information booths around campus, holding mock elections and handing out flyers about voting. The "Be the People" Facebook page offered a way to arrange transportation for those who could not drive to the poll booths. The group caught the attention of the media and was the front page of the Houstonian. This is just one of the many ways that the SHSU Honors College students are exerting a positive influence around the SHSU campus.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

SHSU Honors Alumni Katelyn Stafford is into her second year of her Ph.D in Molecular and Transnational Toxicology at The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is presenting at conferences in Canada and the U.S. on her research projects. “I’m working in collaboration with a Johns Hopkins Hospital cardiologist and Cath Labs throughout Maryland,” said Stafford. “[We’re trying] to assess the immune population of thrombi in heart attack patients to determine why patients are resistant to a specific anticoagulant.” She recently published her first review, “Update on Coxsackievirus B3 Myocarditis.”



Freshman Honors student Michelle Harris won the Bearkats Read to Succeed essay contest this fall. Students were asked to relate their personal experiences to this year’s common reader selection, “*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*,” by Rebecca Skloot. Harris felt personally connected with the book’s theme, coping with adversity and illness. She wrote about the loss of her grandfather due to Alzheimer’s disease.

“Through the pieces of his life that remained after he moved on and as I grew to cope with

his illness and death, I have come to realize the value of dedication and hard work, and how it is through our actions and words that we make this world a better place. Sometimes people forget the value of a warm smile, a hug to those in need, or even the value of dedicated work. It’s not about who has the nicest things or the most money, but who leads their life with a warm heart.” Harris received a \$500.00 scholarship for winning the contest. She is an Interdisciplinary Studies major with a minor in Science and Mathematics.

## READ TO SUCCEED:



## GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SARAH BEAL** is graduating with a B.F.A. in Animation. She is from Fort Worth, TX.

**DEVON BOUFFARD** is graduating with a B.A. in English and a minor in Professional Writing. She is from Houston, TX.

**LUCAS COWL** is graduating with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. He is a Huntsville native graduating Summa Cum Laude.

**JUSTIN WAYNE DAY** is graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Political Science. He is from Mexica, TX.

**LAUREN NOELLE DUCKWORTH** is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a B. S. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. She is from Richmond, TX.

**CATHY FEARN** is graduating with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Music. She is from Willis, TX, and is graduating Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors.

**NATALIE FRYE** is graduating with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a minor in both Middle Eastern Studies and Psychology. She is from San Antonio, TX.

**KIMBERLY ANN HALL** is graduating with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is from Huntsville, TX.

**ALYSSA PERRARD** is graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Biology. She is from Magnolia, TX.

**CANDICE LEE RAMSEY** is graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Forensic Science.

**KATHERINE ROONEY** is graduating with a B.A. in History and a minor in Criminal Justice. She is from Fort Worth, TX.

**TAYLOR WHITEHEAD** is graduating with a B.B.A. in Accounting. He is from Sealy, TX.

**JESSICA WILBURN** is graduating with a B.B. A in Accounting. She is from Conroe, TX, and is graduating Summa Cum Laude.

# SPRING 2013 CALENDAR

<b>JANUARY 16</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	Wake up with Honors, Honors Lounge AB4, 107
<b>FEBRUARY 1</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	Submission Deadline GPHC, WTSU
		<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Deadline: Course Contracts, AB4, Room 201
		<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Deadline: Honors May/August Graduation, AB4, Room 201
<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Honors Ambassadors Meeting, AB4, 107 Honors Lounge
<b>MARCH 1</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Ambassador Applications Due, AB4, 201
<b>MARCH 4</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	Honors Ambassadors Meeting, Honors Lounge, AB4
<b>MARCH 11-15</b>	<b>MONDAY-FRIDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>MARCH 8</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	Honors Advising Opens, Olson Auditorium
<b>MARCH 21</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	High School Honors Dinner, LSC
		<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	Let's Talk Dinner, LSC Ballroom
<b>MARCH 29</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY</b>
<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	<u>Honors Ambassadors Meeting, Honors Lounge, AB4 107</u>
<b>APRIL 2</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	<u>Honors Dinner with President Gibson, Old Main Pit</u>
<b>APRIL 5-6</b>	<b>FRIDAY-SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	Great Plains Honors Conference, WTSU
<b>APRIL 6</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	Saturday@SAM Open House, Olson Auditorium
<b>APRIL TBA</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	The Sammy Awards, LSC Ballroom
<b>APRIL 20</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	Undergraduate Research Symposium, CHSS
<b>APRIL 29</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>2:00 P.M.</b>	Ice Cream Social, TBA
		<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	HSAC Meeting & Elections, Olson Auditorium
		<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	Honors Mandatory Meeting, Olson Auditorium
<b>MAY 3</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Last Class Day
<b>MAY 6-10</b>	<b>MONDAY-FRIDAY</b>		<b>EXAM WEEK</b>
<b>MAY 10</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>11:30 A.M.</b>	Deadline: Course Contract & Community Service, AB4 201
		<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Deadline: Honors Thesis Final Approval
		<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Bowers Medallion Luncheon LSC Ballroom
		<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	Commencement, Coliseum
<b>MAY 11</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	Commencement, Coliseum
		<b>2:00 P.M.</b>	Commencement, Coliseum



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