



# The Dialogue

FALL 2011

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### The Honors Section of UNIV 1301: Introduction to University Studies, seeks to support children in El Salvador for their civic engagement project.

Currently there is no place for youth and adults to gather in Los Pinos, El Salvador. Children play in the street at night where the sun sets at 6:00 p.m., and large cargo trucks constantly move in and out, creating a dangerous environment. The SHSU Honors College is supporting a project to build a park and a kindergarten in Los Pinos.

A cooperative of the village has generously donated the land, a piece of property large enough to accommodate soccer and basketball courts as well as a playground. The adjacent building will be remodeled to create a larger and updated kindergarten classroom.

The park project has three objectives:

*To create a better educational facility to provide more room for students and activities.*

*To improve safety for children by giving them a place to play other than the busy street.*

*To encourage community unity by building a center where families can gather.*

The community of Los Pinos has raised more than \$21,000 for the park. All they need is another \$4,039.70 to reach their goal.

To help the people of Los Pinos to create a safe and educational environment for their children, we are asking for donations in return for wrist bands that carry the phrase "Jugamos Juntos!" meaning "We Play Together" for \$2 each.

One hundred percent of the profits go toward construction of the park.

You can donate to the Peace Corps on their main website: [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

## Let us hear from YOU!

If you have anything you would like to share with the Honors College, let us know!

Share your experiences!

[honors@shsu.edu](mailto:honors@shsu.edu)

936-294-1477



## JOURNEYS SEMINAR



A new Honors Seminar was introduced this fall. Its purpose is to introduce the SHSU community to faculty who “have overcome great odds, accomplished something interesting or surprising, been awarded some honor or recognition from their field or university, or who just have an interesting journey to share.”

Patrick Lewis, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and class instructor, said, “Our goal with the Journeys seminar is to show students what characteristics lead to success. We hope to accomplish this by bringing 10 of the most innovative and successful members of the academic community to give one lecture each. Speakers range from administrators to professors, from new faculty to those who have served the campus for decades, and they all come from a diversity of backgrounds.”

The lecture series counted as one of the required Honors Seminars for students enrolled in the course. Each session was open to the public and refreshments were provided before the lecture.

The students took their share in learning by presenting the speakers; they also wrote a paper on an influential person including artists, scientists, politicians, et cetera.

This semester was a great success, and we hope to continue it next fall.

## PARENTS' WEEKEND

The annual Bearkat Family Weekend is a special campus-wide occasion with activities for parents and family members of our students.

Hosted by the Honors faculty and Student Ambassadors, the Honors Parents Luncheon was held on Saturday, September 17, in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom. Parents visited with other Honors parents, Honors faculty and university administrators while enjoying a catered luncheon. Pictures were taken of each family and were posted to the Honors College Facebook. SHSU Provost Dr. Hebert spoke to the students and parents about the college experience and the importance of Honors. Deans from multiple colleges and Honors Council members were also there to visit with parents. Laura DuBose entertained with a selection of cabaret songs. The students received T-shirts and certificates of recognition.

Parents and students were then invited to join in festivities at the first Honors College football tailgate at Bowers Stadium.



### Let's Talk! 2012

LET'S TALK! is an annual event produced by the President's Office in support of The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College. Proceeds from this event benefit The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College Endowment as well as supplemental support for programs, students and faculty. Guests of Let's Talk! have the exclusive opportunity to share ideas and conversation within a small group, facilitated by a notable host whose passion and in-depth knowledge of his or her topic inspire and provoke ideas long after the evening is concluded.

**This year Let's Talk! will take place on Thursday, March 22, 2012.** Be among those who participate in this unique and exclusive event. Choice of conversation topics is based on level of sponsorship and early registration. Seating is limited.

Sponsorship commitment is needed by January 31, 2012, for inclusion in the invitations and promotional materials. Sponsorships are available at the following levels: Gold (\$10,000), Silver (\$5,000), Bronze (\$2,500)

Honors Student Sponsorship Tickets \$125 Individual Event Tickets \$125  
All contributions over the value of this event (\$50.00 per person) are tax deductible.

Visit [shsu.edu/honors/letstalk](http://shsu.edu/honors/letstalk) for more information and to make a reservation.



### Homecoming—25 years of Honors

The Honors College was well represented at Homecoming this year. The Honors alumni reception celebrating 25 years of Honors at SHSU, was attended by former students, current faculty, and Ambassadors. We had a great turnout. We connected with our alumni and found out what they continued to do after college. We'd like to recognize them as well as some of the alumni still here on campus:

Melanie Bashor— Graduated class of 2006 with a major in History, Philosophy minor. She is currently continuing her studies working toward a D.Phil. at Oxford in the United Kingdom.

David Deveau— Graduated class of 2007 with a degree in Musical Theatre. He is currently seeking his Master's in Dance here at Sam Houston State.

Brittany Disiere—Graduated class of 2011. She is currently working toward her Master's in Forensic Science here at Sam Houston State. She has applied for an Internship with United States Customs and Border Protection.

Katie Fletcher—Graduated class of 2007. She is the Program Coordinator of Project CONNECT TRIO Student Support Services here at Sam Houston State University.

Darrell and Amanda Hamlett— Both graduated in 2001. Darrell is now the Head Men's Soccer Coach at Klein Collins High School.

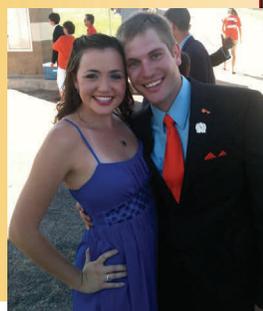
Keri Kershaw—Graduated class of 2011. She is currently seeking her Master's in Biology here at Sam Houston. She will be getting married in April 2012.

James and Kristi Pharaon—Graduated 1998 and 1997 respectively. James was Sammy Bearkat when he was in college and still works as part-time mascot coach. James works as the Art Director of Germania Insurance in Brenham, Texas, where he lives with his family. Kristi, is an Educational Consultant there.

Amy Wright—Graduated class of 2007 with a degree in Dance. She was a dancer on Princess Cruise Lines 2008-2009. She is now seeking her Master's in Dance here at Sam Houston.

This year, the Honors College participated more than ever in the homecoming celebration! We had both a king and queen candidate, as well as a float in the parade and a tent at the homecoming Tailgate. We had a lot of fun participating.

Our candidates made it to the top three for Homecoming Court and got to walk on the field during the homecoming game. Laura DuBose received second runner-up for queen, and Austin Pearce was first runner-up for king.



## From and For the Students

### James Cureton, Former Honors Student

James Cureton, Master's Student in the Dept. of Biological Sciences, was awarded \$2,500 in July, 2009, for his work on conservation genetics and ecology of declining box turtles in the Southwest United States. SHSU faculty advisors for James and collaborators on this project include [Drs. Raelynn Deaton](#) (Dept. of Biology), [Chris Randle](#) (Dept. of Biology) and [William Lutterschmidt](#) (Dept. of Biology and [Texas Research Institute of Environmental Studies; TRIES](#)).

The [National Geographic Young Explorers Grant](#), the grant he was awarded, is a competitive, international grant that funds individuals "between the ages of 18 and 25 to pursue research, conservation, and exploration-related projects consistent with National Geographic's existing grant programs, including: the Committee for Research and Exploration (CRE), the Expeditions Council (EC), and the Conservation Trust (CT)." The grant funds hypothesis-based scientific research and the society is interested mainly in "innovative and applied approaches to conservation with potential for global application" and "exploration and adventure around the world."



### Isaac's Storm

SHSU's First Year Experience Program began giving incoming freshmen their first college academic experience before they even set foot in a classroom with the "Barkats Read to Succeed" program. Through the common reader program, students are given a copy of a book to read over the summer, which is then integrated into some of the classes they take through lectures, film series, participation in discussion groups and course assignments.

The mission of the Barkats Read to Succeed program is to create a common academic/intellectual experience for incoming freshmen, facilitate a campus-wide cross-disciplinary conversation, and enhance the community among students, faculty, and staff.

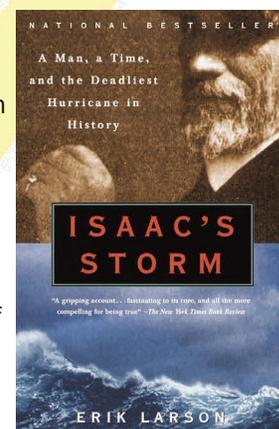
This year's book is *Isaac's Storm*, written by Eric Larson. Using Evan Issac Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, *Isaac's Storm* is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.

On October 2, 2011, Sam Houston State University students traveled to Galveston to learn more about the devastating hurricane of 1900 that they read about. They viewed a film about the storm and participated in a beach clean up.

First Year Experience also sponsored the Barkats Read To Succeed Book Forum. This two-day event at the end of October covered the history of disasters, disaster preparedness, creative writing, and even a celebration of Texas Music.

### Kalyn Cavasos, DEA Internship

From Kalyn: "The internship is really exciting. I'm interning with The Drug Enforcement Administration, Houston Division. I'm rotating through different departments and groups within DEA. Through the rotations, we are focusing on different specifications that The DEA is in charge of trying to mandate drug trafficking laws and tracking fugitives. The Houston Division covers all of South Texas. They have offices in Corpus Christi, El Paso, Laredo, Eagle Pass, San Antonio, and many more. This particular federal agency works with numerous state and local departments (as well as other federal agencies such as The FBI, ICE, and ATF). I'm very excited about all that they have to teach me about how The DEA operates. Federal agency internships within The College of Criminal Justice are very competitive, and I'm excited that I have the opportunity to participate and gain the experience in my desired field. I'm also excited for graduation in December! This should be a very interesting and fun semester."



## Phi Theta Kappa

The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunities for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for the exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship among scholars, and for the stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

The Honors College hosted a reception for students who transferred to the University and were a part of PTK at their previous college. It was a great success. Honors College Ambassadors met with these students and shared experiences about The Honors College and the University. The Honors College is comprised of new students, current students, and transfers. We would like to encourage every student who is interested in continuing college with academic excellence to consider applying to the Honors College. We also hope to continue the partnership with Phi Theta Kappa!



PTK Students enjoyed a reception in the Honors Lounge.

## December Graduates

**William Caron** - Banking and Finance Double Major  
**Chelsea Casey (Highest Honors)** - Animal Science, Pre-Vet with a minor in Science  
**Kalyn Cavazos** - Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology  
**Kristina Dowgun** - Accounting with a minor in Criminal Justice  
**Tiffany Hall** - Geography with a minor in Geo Spatial Science  
**Nicholas Kraus** - Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology  
**Christopher McMillan** - Accounting  
**Kristin Meyer** - English with a minor in Technical Writing  
**Jennifer Mohler** - Accounting  
**Elizabeth Neucere** - History with a minor in Geography  
**Cecilia Pena** - Mass Communications with a minor in Spanish  
**Jamie Sabbagh-Barrett** - Communication Studies with a minor in Psychology  
**Eric Schrader** - Mass Communications with a minor in History  
**Mary Trobaugh** - English with a minor in Creative Writing  
**Colleen Trotter** - Musical Theatre with an emphasis in Music  
**Rachel Voss** - Political Science with a minor in Spanish  
**Ardelia Wright (Highest Honors)** - English with a minor in General Business

*The Honors College  
 would like to send a  
 big  
 CONGRATULATIONS to  
 all of our  
 December  
 Graduates!!*



## Student Spotlight

**Brittany Winner** is a senior majoring in Forensic Chemistry with a dual minor in Criminal Justice and Biology. She has been a member of the Honors College since her Freshman year in 2008. Brittany is involved in many organizations, including Honors College Student Ambassadors, TriBeta National Biological Honors Society, Orange Keys, and Lutheran Student Fellowship. She is also co-chair of the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Spring.

Brittany attended and presented at the BIT 1st Annual Drug Delivery Symposium in Shenzhen, China, in November 2011, sponsored by the Honors College. Since then, she has received a Pfizer Undergraduate Student Travel Award to present her research at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in San Francisco in March 2012. She has received scholarships from the Department of Chemistry such as the Jeffery E. Zagone Memorial Scholarship and the Earl H. Burroughs Memorial Scholarship as well

Brittany applied to six Ph.D. programs in Toxicology all over the nation including University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, MIT, Michigan State University, University of Maryland Baltimore, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Indiana School of Medicine. She has been accepted to Michigan State where she will spend four to five years studying toxicology and its applications to medicine, pharmacology, and much more. With her Ph.D., she plans to seek employment in a research lab. "I am also getting married on June 2, 2012, to my best friend and longtime competitor, Christopher John (also an Honors College student)."



A little learning is  
a dangerous  
thing;  
Drink deep, or  
taste not the  
Pierian Spring.

~Alexander Pope  
(1688-1744)

## Professor Highlight

**Stacy Ulbig**, Associate Professor of Political Science, came to Sam Houston State University in August 2007, after teaching five years at Missouri State University. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas and her master's and doctoral degrees from Rice University.

Her teaching interests include American government, political behavior, political participation, public opinion, quantitative methods, and survey research techniques.

She has earned other awards for excellence in teaching by the SHSU Department of Political Science in 2010 and by the Missouri State University College of Humanities and Public Affairs in 2005. She is the winner of the University Teaching Award 2011.

Ulbig is a member of the American Political Science Association, the Southern Political Science Association and the Midwest Political Science Association and has served with those organizations as panel chair and discussant on numerous occasions.

She has a number of publications, conference presentations, and service activities, but her colleagues and her current and former students say her positive impact on teaching, which extends to her students, colleagues and scholars of the discipline, makes her stand out in the classroom and beyond.

Some of their comments include: "She is extremely knowledgeable and genuinely cares about her students, but will not hold your hand. She makes you take responsibility, like a true college professor should."



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 a reason why that person should be in our featured section.



## Honors College Calendar

**January 18** Wake Up With Honors

**February 6** Honors Ambassadors Meeting and Monday Funday

5:00 and 6:00 p.m. respectively in the Honors College Lounge

**February 23** Reception for Outstanding Students

1:00 p.m. Peabody Library

**March 1** Deadline: Honors College Ambassador Applications

**March 5** Honors Ambassadors Meeting and Monday Funday

**March 6** Honors Dinner with President Gibson

6:30 p.m. Walker Education Center

**March 9** High School Honors Dinner

**March 12 –16** Spring Break Recess

**March 19** Honors Advising Opens

**March 23** Advanced Registration Begins

**March 24** Open House at 11:00 a.m./ Saturdays @ Sam

**March 30-31** Great Plains Honors Conference

**April 2** Honors Ambassadors Meeting and Monday Funday

**April 11** The Sammy Awards, PAC Concert Hall, 6:00 p.m.

**April 30** Honors Assembly, HSAC Elections, Ice Cream Social

**May 4** Last Class Day

**May 7-11** EXAM Week

**May 11** Deadline: Course Contract Certification, Thesis Final Approval, Bowers Medallion Luncheon

**May 11-12** Commencement—Coliseum

## Undergraduate Research Symposium

### Information Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 31 and Wednesday, Feb. 1

Honors College Lounge, AB4 Room 107

*Deadline for Registration: March 2*

**Event is April 21, 2012**

## Let's Talk!

**Thursday, March 22**

**LSC Ballroom**

6:00 p.m. VIP Reception

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Conversation

8:30 p.m. Dessert and Book Signing

**All proceeds fund the  
Elliott T. Bowers Honors College**

## *The Dialogue?*

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 about the Honors College.

## Let us hear from YOU!

If you have anything you would like to share with the Honors College, let us know!

We are looking for pictures and articles from everyone. Are you going abroad? Have you found an internship? Share your experiences!

honors@shsu.edu

936-294-1477

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Heather Coats	Norma Ogbonna
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Sean Crenwelge	Julie Taylor
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