

# The University Honors Program

## Annual Report: 2007-08

### DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

Honors programs serve a unique function in institutions with highly heterogeneous student bodies. The best of these programs provide a diversity of curricula for a diversity of students to attract and retain talented students and to provide an exceptional educational experience for the most capable students. With the heterogeneous student population at Texas State University-San Marcos, the University Honors Program ensures that the ablest students do not lose their enthusiasm for learning. In addition, honors classes provide an opportunity for sometimes reluctant students to try something new. The honors program provides a means for the university to recruit and retain talented and gifted students who might be drawn to other universities without such a program. Our staff provides students personal assistance in planning their educational and career goals.

The University Honors Program has grown significantly since it was founded in 1967 by History professor, Dr. Emmie Craddock. Currently, the University Honors Program serves more than 850 of Texas State University's best and brightest students. Students in our small seminars encounter the university's best faculty, teaching subjects they know and love. We offer a diverse curriculum, representing many departments and colleges on campus, providing professors a teaching laboratory wherein they can explore new research areas or teaching methods. We offer more than \$28,000 in scholarships annually to honors students. Our 2005 move from ASB South to Lampasas Hall has provided a significant change in the identity and sense of community among honors students, faculty, and other visitors to the Honors Coffee Forum, our classrooms, and computer lab.

Additionally, we serve a broader student population through several widespread initiatives: 1) recruiting the best high school students from across the state with the Admissions Office through mailings, Scholars Day and Bobcat Days; 2) grooming Texas State students for nationally competitive scholarships, including the Rhodes, Fulbright, Truman, and Rockefeller competitions through workshops, advising and letters of recommendation, in collaboration with other departments; 3) collaborating on the Common Experience by curating the art and photography exhibits in the Gallery of Common Experience; serving on the CE team; designing, publishing and distributing CE posters throughout campus and the community; and collaborating with departments across campus to host and support various Common Experience events; and 4) supporting our students' participation in and faculty offerings of quality study abroad opportunities.

### STATE OF THE PROGRAM

#### Staff

- Dr. Heather Galloway, Director (full-time) and Professor of Physics
- Diann A. McCabe, Associate Director (full-time)

- Melanie Liddle, Administrative Assistant (full-time as of Fall 07)

The program employed 11 student workers: Anthony Villanacci, Rick Zuniga, Amber Jackson, Tamara Jungen, Lindsay Howell, Rhonda Martinez, Marc Seidel, Jessa McKinnis, Josh Munoz, Ryan Bradley, and Chris Moon.

### **Lampasas Hall: Building Community**

Along with the Center for International Studies, the Honors Program has been housed in the renovated Lampasas Hall since fall 2005. Located directly on the quad next to Old Main, Lampasas Hall has provided students, faculty, and community members a gathering place for study, conversation, art receptions and gallery exhibits, classrooms, computer lab work, student and faculty offices, and meeting and kitchen space.

During the 2007-08 academic year improvements were made to the building including the refurbishing of storage rooms off of Room 501, and restoration to the exterior of the building. In October 2007 the Mitte Recognition Wall was unveiled with a reception in the Coffee Forum.

Funding for the Gallery of the Common Experience in 2007-08 has been provided by a National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Grant, a grant from the Texas State Parent Association, and the Mitte Foundation. Located in the Honors Coffee Forum, the site of a former art gallery, the Gallery of the Common Experience provides a visual response to the theme of the Common Experience. Curated by Linda Kelsey-Jones and honors student volunteers, the gallery featured three exhibits during 07-08: "Help Save Our Planet: Children's Artwork from South Africa," "The San Marcos: A River's Story," and "Water: A Common Experience." Each reception held for the exhibits was a lively event featuring talks and interaction among students, faculty, and community residents. The sale of South African children's artwork featured in the first exhibit helped raise funds toward the purchase and installation of a hydraulic ram water pump in the village of Caba, South Africa. At the reception for Jerry Touchstone Kimmel's photography in the exhibit, "The San Marcos: A River's Story," Dianne Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, presented Jerry and Jim Kimmel with a "friend of the river" award in recognition of their stewardship of the river. Students on campus from Juilliard joined in the final exhibit, along with visiting Dutch photomicrographer, Wim van Egmond, who had conducted workshops for art and science students, and whose art was featured in the final exhibit.

Numerous gatherings were hosted by the Honors Program in the Coffee Forum in the past year including luncheons with international students, Admissions counselors, and University College personnel, and the art receptions. Receptions for visiting speakers were held for Sister Luise Ahrens' presentation on "Life in Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge" and Donna Berber's presentation, "A Glimmer of Hope," on water systems in Ethiopia. An evening poetry reading, "Poems About Water" had five faculty members from the Department of English read poetry following student jazz performances. In addition, honors students and faculty gathered in the forum for Meet the Professor Night in the fall and spring, for poster sessions for the Undergraduate Research Conference in November, and for Dr. James Housefield's student presentations on Dadaism. Various organizations met regularly in Lampasas including the Honors Student Association, Alpha Lambda Delta, Psi Chi National Honors Society, the Social Awareness Documentary Film Club, the Filmmakers Alliance, the Common Experience team, the Japanese Club, and STAND—a student anti-genocide coalition. Off campus visitors to the coffee forum include students from the San Marcos school district.

## **Scholarships**

The program currently administers 3 different scholarships totaling \$30,500 per year: Craddock Scholarships (\$1,500 each per annum), the FitzPatrick Scholarships (\$1,000 each per annum), and University Honors Program Scholarships (\$1,000 each per annum). We also administer and award up to \$3000 in undergraduate Honors Thesis Grants.

After mid-April 08, administration of the Mitte Scholarships was no longer managed in the Honors Program.

## **Honors Students**

Students join the University Honors Program on a rolling basis. Once accepted into the program, students may choose to take one or more honors classes. In addition, students are invited to various program events and can make use of the space in Lampasas for study, meetings or conversation. Advising for honors courses, assistance in applying for post-graduate programs, and other references are available upon request. The honors website, [www.txstate.edu/honors](http://www.txstate.edu/honors) and the honors email, [honors@txstate.edu](mailto:honors@txstate.edu), provides initial contact information and responses to basic questions.

Students who choose to graduate in the program must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25 and complete at least five honors courses including the honors thesis. Students completing the honors thesis also make a presentation at the thesis forum scheduled during the semester in which they are completed their thesis.

As of fall 2006 honors students have the option of minoring in Honors Studies. This option requires completion of seven honors courses, including Hon 4390A, Senior Seminar, and Hon 4390B, the Honors Thesis. In addition, students must show a cross-cultural competency through a study abroad or similar experience.

## **The Honors Students Association**

The University Honors Student Association is open to all honors students and provides an avenue for student involvement in the governance of the program and for interaction among honors students. Members serve on Honors Program committees and host a “Meet the Professor Night” for incoming honors faculty each semester, and are encouraged to participate in other on-campus organizations serving as the student voice of the University Honors Program. HSA also hosts a variety of events throughout the academic year such as honors information meetings and receptions for alumni and artists whose work is exhibited in the Gallery of Common Experience.

**HSA Officers:** Rick Zunica, Matt Ferreira, Chris Wilson, and Rob Guilford

## **Honors Courses**

Honors courses are proposed by professors who are then interviewed by the honors curriculum committee. Once the committee approves the course proposal, the course proposal is approved by the Honors Director, Dean of University College, and sent to the VPAA’s office for a course number. Each honors course must be interdisciplinary and writing intensive. Substitutions are secured during the approval process.

Beginning fall 07 students may enroll in Hon 4391, the Honors Independent Study course. This course allows a student to design a course of study for honors credit under the supervision of a faculty member.

Students can also complete an honors contract for honors credit wherein they contract with a professor in an advanced regular course to complete a project equivalent to 15% additional work.

**Enrollment Statistics:**

|                                     | Fall 2007 | Spring 08 | Summer 08 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Active honors students              | 690       | 753       | ongoing   |
| Honors courses offered/new          | 14/3      | 18/5      | 2         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> day/end Enrollment | 210/200   | 284/274   | 3         |
| Contract courses                    | 8         | 8         | 0         |
| Graduates in UHP                    | 8         | 22        | 0         |

**Graduation in the University Honors Program by College:**

| College            | Fall 2007 | Spring 2008 | Summer 2008 |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Applied Arts       |           |             |             |
| Business           |           | 2           |             |
| Education          | 1         | 2           |             |
| Fine Arts & Comm.  | 4         | 3           |             |
| Health Professions |           | 1           |             |
| Liberal Arts       | 3         | 12          |             |
| Science            |           | 2           |             |
| <b>Totals</b>      | <b>8</b>  | <b>22</b>   | <b>-0-</b>  |

**HONORS COMMITTEES**

**Honors Course Curriculum Committee**

Members of the Honors Course Curriculum Committee meet to interview faculty proposing honors courses

- Diann A. McCabe, University Honors Program
- Eileen Galvez, Political Science major
- Rick Zuniga, Political Science and History major
- Amber Jackson, Mass Communication major
- Rhonda Martinez, Interdisciplinary Science Studies major
- Max Warshauer, Mathematics
- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Jeff Gordan, Philosophy

**Scholarship Committees**

**Craddock & Honors Scholarships**

- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program

- Hector Flores, College of Science
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- William Liddle, History

**Fitzpatrick Scholarship**

- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program

**Thesis Grant Committee**

- Carol Hazlewood, Computer Science
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Anthony Villanacci, History Major

**University Honors Program Committee**

The University Honors Program receives direction and advice from the University Honors Program Committee. For FY 2007, the committee consisted of:

- Ron Brown, University College
- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Max Warshauer, Mathematics
- Carol Hazlewood, Computer Science
- Gary Beall, Chemistry
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Priscilla Leder, English
- Margeret Menninger, History
- Jim Bell, Management
- Bill Chittendon, Finance & Eco
- Eileen Morisson, Health Administration
- Nico Schuler, Music
- Rosanne Mandziuk, Communication Studies
- B.J. Friedman, Nutrition & Foods
- Gwynne Ash, Curriculum & Instruction

**HONORS FACULTY**

| <b>Fall 2007</b>                      | <b>Spring 2008</b>                   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lochman, English                      | Beebe, Communication Studies         |
| Spencer, Physics                      | Olson, Physics                       |
| Morrison, Health Administration       | Ferrero, Math                        |
| Nolan, Journalism                     | Hawkins, Social Work                 |
| Renick, Health Administration         | Hanson, English                      |
| Cagniart, History                     | Evans, English                       |
| Fling, Psychology (Professor Emerita) | McKinney, Philosophy                 |
| Warshauer, Math                       | Liddle, History (Professor Emeritus) |
| Mandziuk, Communication Studies       | Crixell, Nutrition                   |
| Skerpan-Wheeler, English              | Yuan, Philosophy                     |

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ward, Political Science     | Siegenthaler, History       |
| Gordon, Philosophy          | Castillo, Political Science |
| McCabe, University Honors   | Harney, Modern Languages    |
| Galloway, University Honors | Hood, Theatre               |
|                             | Housefield, Art & Design    |
|                             | Flores, College of Science  |
|                             | Galloway, University Honors |
|                             | McCabe, University Honors   |

### **Honors Awards:**

Honors students show their appreciation to a 07-08 honors professor with the honors professor of the year award. In addition, honors students acknowledge a professor and a staff member from across the university who has been effective in an advisory role. For FY 2008, the following received acknowledgement from honors students:

- Roseanne Mandziuk, Stephanie Goodbread Advisor of the Year
- Slyvia Crixell and Dave Nolan, University Honors Professors of the Year
- Jan Carmack Bunker, Mary Lou Bishop Advisor of the Year

### **Honors Faculty Beyond the Honors Classroom, supported by and supporting the program:**

- Nancy Wilson, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Diann McCabe, and Heather Galloway taught honors sections of US1100 in the fall of 2007
- John Hood and friends performed bluegrass music for the honors leadership retreat in September
- John Hood's honors students staged concert readings on 3 nights in the spring as an assignment for his honors class, Modern Drama: Theatre of Revolt.
- Carole Martin coordinated the Tournees French Film Festival & Symposium on campus in the spring. Presenters included honors students discussing the films of Bergman based on Jeff Gordon's fall honors course, The Meaning of Life in Film
- Steven Beebe brought Dr. Michael Ward to campus in April to speak on "Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C.S. Lewis." Beebe's honors course, C.S. Lewis: Chronicles of a Master Communicator, was offered in the spring semester.
- Diann McCabe, advisor for STAND, worked with STAND members to show the film, *The Devil Came on Horseback*, followed by a reception to discuss the situation in Darfur. STAND students also collected \$1000 in a day of fasting for Darfur.
- Students in Pat Evans' honors class, Science Fiction and Society, formed a reading group and blog to continue discussions about science fiction after the honors class ended last spring.
- Diann McCabe presented "Thirsting for an Academic Community" for the African American Leadership Conference in September
- Honors Physics professor, Donald Olson, and Physics professor, Russell Doescher, along with University Honors students Kellie N. Beicker and Amanda F. Gregory, will publish their findings in the August 2008 edition of *Sky & Telescope* magazine re-dating Caesar's invasion of Britain

## Honors Student Achievements

- Maira Lysette Garcia, (Mass Comm, 12-07) served as Editor of Chief for the *University Star*, began a masters in Mass Comm at Texas State, and is covering the 2008 presidential election for MTV's *Choose or Lose*. Garcia's honors thesis, *Corporate and Independent Coverage of Immigration, Health Care, and the 2008 Elections: A Content Analysis on Latino-Oriented Newspapers*, was supervised by Professor Federico Subervi, Journalism.
- Vanessa Treviño (Exercise Sports Science with Emp on Pre-Physical Therapy, 12-07) has been accepted to graduate school in Physical Therapy at the University of Texas-Pan American, Texas Woman's University and is awaiting news from other schools.
- Kristina Zuris (Senior, Interdisciplinary Studies) was featured in "The Student Becomes the Teacher, Woman returns to kindergarten class for training," in *The Corpus Christi Caller* in January. Kristina was a student teacher under the supervision of her own former kindergarten teacher.
- Rachel Brody (Speech Communication, 5-07) received the Lyndon B. Johnson Outstanding Senior Award. Rachel is teaching at Coolidge Senior High School with Teach for America in Washington, D.C. while working on her masters in special education
- Alysha Hernandez (Mass Communication- PRT Journalism, 12-07) was the student speaker for the College of Fine Arts and Communication for the December commencement
- Rebekah Frank was also a finalist in the 2008 NICHE Student Awards for her piece titled *Raphide Box*, designed for Dr. Hector Flores' spring 2007 honors class, Seeds of Change. Only 72 out of 1000 submissions were named finalists in this year's competition held in Philadelphia in February.
- Carley Wolf (Senior, SRT) presented her honors thesis, *Music Through the Bloodline: a Bilingual Documentary*, at the former Aquarena Restaurant Fountain View Room in December as part of the Common Experience. She performed live music following the film showing to a crowd of friends, family, and faculty.
- Martha Bitar, an international studies major, was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad
- Michelle Sotolongo (Art & Design, 5-07) presented her honors thesis , *Adorning the Cross*, at the International Textile and Apparel Association in Los Angeles in November 2007
- Anthony Villanacci (Senior, History) won the art contest for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in January 2008, was nominated by the Honors Program for the Student Employee of the Year, has been named as Outstanding Undergraduate History student and has been given the Liberal Arts Academic Excellence Award.
- Bonnie Cole (Geography, 5-08) has been accepted as a Teach for America Fellow beginning in the fall of 2008. Bonnie will teach in Houston
- Amanda Mjos (Senior, History) was selected as this year's Outstanding Undergraduate History Student and was given the Liberal Arts Academic Excellence Award
- Susan Rauch, (Senior, English) has had three photos, from her study abroad trip to Ireland last summer, accepted for display by the Rockport Center for the Arts Student Juried Competition this March. She also presented her photo documentary, *Single*

*Fatherhood: Breaking the Stereotype*, at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland in April

- Jarryd S. Brennan (Senior, Bio Chem) presented a research poster on G-Quadruplex Helicase Activity of SV40 T-antigen at the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology portion of the Experimental Biology conference in San Diego, April 5-9, 2008. In addition, the Texas State Biochemistry Society, for which he serves as president, won the American Society of Biochemistry/Molecular Biology “outstanding undergraduate affiliated network for the south central region.”
- Kellie Beicker (Physics, 5-08) has been accepted to attend the University of North Carolina to study physics.
- Roxanne Moralez (Senior, Accounting) was elected to the National Collegiate Honors Council board of directors for a two-year term as a student representative.
- Stephen Gates (Freshman, Bio-Chemistry) is the 2007-2008 Mitte Laureate Scholar.
- The following Art and Design Metals students in the University Honors Program had artwork accepted to exhibitions in the **Society of North American Goldsmiths** annual conference in Savannah, Georgia in March: **Michelle Sotolongo** (5-07, Studio Art w/ emph Jewelry/Metals): *The Ol' Ball 'n' Chain* and *Black & White*, and **Rebekah Frank** (Junior, Studio Art): *Tirumvirate Box*. These competitions were open to both graduate and undergraduate students from across the nation.
- Several Honors students were recognized and selected to have their Bobcat Profile on the Texas State homepage:
  - Sean Anthony Guillory, Philosophy with a minor in English
  - Leslie Ann Cortez, Master' of Accountancy
  - Geoffrey Miller, Mathematics
  - Louie Deán Valencia, Alumnus
  - Reagan Pugh, English with a creative writing emphasis
  - Roxanne Moralez, Accounting

Four honors students and 3 Texas State faculty members attended the National Collegiate Honors Council held in Denver, Colorado in November 2007:

- **Vanessa Treviño** (12-07, Exercise Sports Science with Emp on Pre-Physical Therapy) presented *What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?* as part of her honors thesis, *Afghanistan's Needs: Observations of a Soldier*, supervised by Dr. Fred Day, geography
- **Amber Jackson** (Sophomore, Pre-Mass Communication) presented *Hip Hop's Creative Tension: Representations and Misrepresentations*; Her ideas originated in Dr. Elvin Holt's spring 2007 honors class, *Disturbing the Peace: Politics of Language and Power in Hip Hop Culture*.
- **Lindsay Bira** (Senior, Psychology) and **Hayat Qurunful** (Junior, Geography) presented *Purple Corn: A Four Course Meal in Peru*; based on research done in Dr. Hector Flores' spring 2007 honors class, *Seeds of Change*.
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program, presented “Socratic and Other Questioning Methods to Enhance Honors Learning,” at the NCHC in Denver.

## HONORS PROGRAM OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

**Convocation:** President Trauth mentioned forming an Honors College as one of the five goals for expanding and improving the University as part of the 2004-2009 University plan



**Honors Leadership Retreat:** Held in September 2007, attendance at the retreat was required for incoming Mitte Scholars and open to incoming honors freshmen. Students had the opportunity to create friendships while becoming acquainted with the honors staff and faculty at the 7A Resort in Wimberley. Honors alumnus, Dr. Joseph Brown, gave the keynote speech for the retreat. Dr. Brown is the Assistant Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies and Diversity Programs at Stanford University. Honors faculty joined the retreat for dinner and a talent show, including Susan Hanson, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, and John Hood.

**Graduate School presentation:** Dr. Joseph L. Brown, Honors alumnus led a workshop on applying to graduate school on September 28, 2007. Dr. Brown also led a workshop, "On Creating a Sense of Belonging," for the University Seminar faculty.

**The Common Experience:** The Common Experience is a year-long initiative of Texas State University-San Marcos designed to cultivate a common intellectual conversation across the campus, to enhance student participation in the intellectual life of the campus, and to foster a sense of community across our entire campus and extended community. The University Honors Program played a key role in the 2007-08 theme, "The Water Planet: A River Runs Through Us," including collaborating with departments across campus to bring visitors to campus, serving on the Common Experience team, and designing and printing posters announcing the various events.

**Honors in New Zealand Giving Back:** Six Mitte Foundation scholars and honors students participated in a Habitat for Humanity Global Village international outreach program in New Zealand, October 23 – November 3, 2007. Stephen Gates, Erica Rodriguez, Audrey Dornbusch, Stephanie Boyd, Melissa Heidelberg and Amy Lane were chosen to go to Pouria, a small suburb of Wellington in New Zealand to work together to build a house for a family of eight.

**Wim Van Egmond:** Visiting Dutch artist/ photomicrographer Wim van Egmond spent two weeks at Texas State giving workshops and talks for science and art students and helping to install the current Gallery of the Common Experience exhibit, Water: A Common Experience (on display March through mid- August) featuring nine of his works. The subject matter of van Egmond's work focuses on small water-borne creatures. His photographic and installation art has been exhibited in galleries internationally, incorporated into theatrical performances and has been published in books and magazines, both as art and scientific illustration.

**Second Annual Texas State Undergraduate Research Conference, Honors Thesis Forum, and Symposium on Water, November 29-30:** More than 40 undergraduate students presented their research at the second annual Texas State Undergraduate Research Conference sponsored by Dr. Billy Covington of the Office of the Associate Vice President for Research.

**Thesis Forum Presentations (open to the whole campus)**

- Brian Allen: Attitudes of Hispanic Women towards Folic Acid
- Taylor Barker: Resolution of an Inherently Chiral Calix[6]arene
- Bonnie Cole: Spatial Competency in Texas High School Students
- Jena Ponsford: The Future of Adolescent Female Cyber-Bullying: Electronic Media's Effect on Aggressive Female Communication
- Stephanie Vogler: The "6 Deutsche Lieder" for Clarinet, Voice, and Piano by Louis

Spohr (1784-1859)

- Susan Rauch: Christiana: The Reincarnation of Margery and Bridget
- Maira García: Corporate and Independent Coverage of Immigration, Health Care, and the 2008 Elections: A Content Analysis on Latino-Oriented Newspapers
- Jimmy Fristoe, Bobby Fristoe, Edward Allen: Foam Cutter Table
- Michelle E. Methvin: Enchantment and Security in Holy Matrimony
- Vanessa Treviño: Afghanistan's Needs: Observations from a Soldier
- Jesus Serna Fuentes, Peter J. Lerma, Cyril Ward, Jesus Jimenez: Simulation Analysis of AMHS Performance in Semiconductor Wafer Fabs
- Cameron Collier, S. Dharmasiri, N. Dharmasiri: Characterization of novel Arabidopsis mutant is resistant to the herbicide, picloram
- Amy Biedermann: Communists, Eggheads, and Queers: The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in the United States Presidential Election of 1952
- April Parker: Simplifying and Expanding Equivalence Relations
- Mariana Garza: The Role of Acculturation in Nutrition Among Hispanic Women and its Implications to Neural Tube Defects
- Alysha Hernandez: Innovation and Inquiry in Texas and Guatemala: A Collection of Poetry, Artwork and Photography
- Erica S. Sokolowski Crooke: Motor Learning and Stroke Dynamics: A MicroPET Study
- Rebecca Stockhorst: Muslim Mariannes: Women of North African Immigration in France Today
- Brian Johnson: Power Conditioning for Photovoltaics

#### **Symposium on Water -**

- Dr. Carl Ventrice, Department of Physics: The Great Katrina Flood: Why it happened, will it happen again?
- Ms. Kristen Epp, Department of Biology: Do you ever get the feeling you're about to be eaten? Recognition and avoidance of nonnative predators by native salamanders.
- Dr. Frank de la Teja, Department of History: Water and Land in Texas: The Mexican Legacy
- Ms. Christy Tinsley Ilfrey, Texas State Alumni, BA 1998, English: River Memories, Native Plants, and the Nature of Texas

#### **Poster Presentations (open to all)**

- Taylor Barker: Resolution of an Inherently Chiral Calix[6]arene
- Lindsay Bira, Randall Osborne: Cortisol memory and coping mechanisms: Does experience make a difference?
- Jarryd Brennan, Karl Jasheway, Wendi David: Binding of SV40 T-antigen to G-quadruplex DNA using real time surface Plasmon resonance
- Cameron Collier, S. Dharmasiri, N. Dharmasiri: Characterization of novel Arabidopsis mutant is resistant to the herbicide, picloram
- John H. Duvall-Jisha, Andrew Blair, Michael R. J. Forstner: Arthropod diversity during drought conditions
- Kelly Goodsheller, Taylor Stearns, Steven Woods, Susan Schwinning, Steven Archer: Are Woody Plant Species that Become Woody Encroachers More Resilient to Drought and Defoliation?

- Amanda Gregory, Kyle Smith, Clayton Moore, Anup Bandyopadhyay, Wilhelmus J. Geerts, M.J. Sablik: The Effect of Plastic Deformation on the Magnetic Properties of Thin Iron and Permalloy Films
- Veronica Huerta, D.V. Vattam, Robert J.C. McLean: Herbs, spices, and the medicinal plants used in Hispanic traditional medicine can inhibit quorum sensing in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Travis Hutchins, Benjamin Martin: Nanoparticle Composites for Broad Spectrum Photocatalysis
- Amber Jackson: Hip Hop's Creative Tension: Representations and Misinterpretations
- Stephen Jones, Jitendra Tate, John Massingill: Low-cost Manufacturing of Bio-Based Polyurethane/E-Glass composites
- Jessica Karr, Wendi David: G-quadruplex helicase activity of SV40 T-antigen
- Tamira Konkin-Garcia: Seasonality and fecundity in sailfin mollies, *Poecilia latipinna*
- Michael Rubal, Cletus W. Wilkins Jr., Patrick E. Cassidy, and Chris Lansford: Fluorinated Polyimide Nanocomposites for CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> Separation
- Meghan Lawson, David Easter, Scott Grimes: Fluorobenzene and Benzene-Fluorobenzene Cluster Spectra Analysis through R2PI
- Jonathan Lenz: The Effect of Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) on Leaf Breakdown in a Pond: Testing Predation-Risk Impact
- James May, Peng Zhai, and Jonathan Silberg: Expression and Structural Analysis of the Hsp70 Escort Protein HEP1 from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
- Naomi Coleman Medina, Jeffery D. Hooten, and Shirley Matile Ogletree: Gendered Depictions of Magazine Photographs
- April Parker: Simplifying and Expanding Equivalence Relations
- Susan Rauch: Single Fatherhood: Breaking the Stereotypes
- Chris Sawyer, Dan Tamir: Laser Writer Software Project
- Priscilla Riojas, Alejandra Sorto: Girls Junior Summer Math Camp
- Kyle Simpson, Dan Tamir: Visually Pleasing Concave Hull Construction on Multi-node graphs/maps
- Joshua Tharp, Mina Guirguis: Reduction of Quality Attacks on Content Adaptation Mechanisms
- Vanessa Treviño: Afghanistan's Needs: Observations from a Soldier
- Brittany Wiese, Natalie A. Ceballos: Gender, Body Image, and Attitudes about Tobacco: Implications for Individualized Smoking Cessation Efforts in Adolescents and Emerging Adults
- Steven Williams, Anita Ramos, Mireya Rodriguez, and Wendi David: Metal-Mediated Binding of Small Molecules to DNA using SPR

Posters were judged by professors Priscilla Leder, Nancy Wilson, Nico Schuler, Carol Hazlewood, Eileen Morrison, Michael Blanda, Oren Renick, and Daniela Ferrero

Winning posters: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Amanda Gregory, Kyle Smith, and Clayton Moore for "The Effect of Plastic Deformation on the Magnetic Properties of Thin Iron and Permalloy Films." 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to John H. Duvall- Jisha and Andrew Blair for "Anthropod diversity during drought conditions" and to Tamira Konkin-Garcia for "Seasonality and fecundity in sailfin mollies, *Poecilia latipinna*."

**Honors Thesis Forums, April 2008:** Open to students completing their honors theses and

supervising professors.

- Jessica Freeman: Gender Differences in Pleasant, Emotional, Autobiographical Memories
- Julie Raty: Mother Grin's Village: A Creative Drama Program
- Kimberley Dunbar: An Emphasis in Personal Financial Planning: A Case Study in the American Financial Planning Invitational Competition
- Maxwell Strickler: The Depletion of World Fisheries
- Ian Eskander: Ghosts of Algeria: Declaration of Freedom
- Stacy Whittaker: C.S. Lewis' *The Four Loves* and Physical Therapy: What's Love Got to Do with It?
- Karen Jennett: Female Figurines in the Upper Paleolithic
- Kristen Franks: A Year in the Life of a Stock: Following a Share of Bank of America Corporate Stock Through 2007
- Rick Zuniga: Kennedy, Krushchev, and Castro—The Bay of Pigs through the Cuban Missile Crisis: Misunderstandings, Reactions, and Fear
- Cameron Ney: Democracy Promotion: Its Origins and Development in American Political Culture and Prospects for Success
- Lindsay Bira: Stress, pH & Coping: Does Experience Make a Difference?
- Amanda Mjos: Shakespeare & Company and Subculture in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America
- Ashley Stuart: Inherent Threats to the American Way of Life: Privacy and Isolation in the United States
- Alexis Dabney: Today's Vision: Tomorrow's Tradition
- Kristina Zuris: "With-It-Ness" through the Eyes of a Student Teacher: Effective Classroom Management Procedures, Rules, and Class Meetings
- Zac Seldon: A Frequency Distribution Study of Case Law within Archeology
- M. Adam Palmer: Fear: A Psycho physiological Study of Horror Film Viewing
- Natalie Diaz: Commuter Rail and Transportation Oriented Development in the Jewel of the Corridor
- Dane Diaz: Anthropology Theory in Literary Analysis
- Kellie Beicker: Moonbows over Yosemite: Predicting Moonbows in Lower Yosemite Falls
- Veronica Lockett: From Foster Care to Adulthood: Where Do We Go From Here?

## **SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

- The Mitte Recognition Wall was installed into the entrance hallway to Lampasas Hall
- The 2007 Honors Leadership Retreat satisfies the requirements of the Mitte Foundation while involving non-Mitte Scholars, honors faculty, and an alumnus. Funding is secured for the Fall 2008 Honors Leadership Retreat.
- Honors sections of US1100 are filled and help in building community and a connection to the Common Experience
- Funding for the Gallery of the Common Experience includes a national Portz Grant and a Texas State Parent Association grant
- Honors student, Roxanne Morales (Accounting), is elected to the NCHC Board of Directors

- Teach for America representatives make presentations to the Senior Seminar honors class
- The program is renamed the University Honors Program in April 2008
- Honors Independent Study, Hon 4391, is offered beginning fall 2007
- The Minor in Honors Studies is an option as of fall 2006
- The first Departmental Honors course, B-Law 2361, is arranged to be offered in the fall 08 semester. Meetings with Mathematics and Biology were held to plan for Departmental Honors offerings in the 09-10 academic year.
- Arrangements began to offer Honors housing in the fall 09 semester in Butler Hall

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| HONORS ALUMNI |
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Graduates in the University Honors Program have reported the following:

- Christy Tinsley (Ilfrey), English '98, gave the keynote address, "River Memories, Native Plants, and the Nature of Texas," at the Second Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Symposium, November 2007
- Wayne Oquin, Music '99, earned his Ph.D. from the Juilliard School in May 2008. He has been offered a position as professor at Juilliard. Oquin has returned to Texas State to perform in concert as part of the Common Experience for the past four years. This past March he brought student musicians, singers, dancers and actors from Juilliard to perform along with Texas State students. Educational Outreach Director at Juilliard, Robert Brooks, attended the March performance in Evans.
- Melissa McFadden, Physics '01, earned the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in May 2008. McFadden will practice medicine in Waco.
- Kara Holsinger (Comm Studies & Posi '05) earned the degree of Juris Doctor from George Mason University School of Law in May 2008. Holsinger will take the Texas Bar exam in order to practice law in the state of Texas.
- Kristeen Pelkey (Anthro '00) earned the degree of Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Sciences
- Dr. Joseph L. Brown (Physics '84) led a workshop at Texas State on applying to graduate school, a workshop for US1100 faculty, and gave the address for the Fall 07 Honors Leadership Retreat. Dr. Brown is Assistant Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies and Diversity Programs at Stanford University.