

The University Honors Program

Annual Report: 2008-09

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. This year Dr. Steve Zinkgraf, Dr. & Mrs. William Liddle, and Mr. Steve Gregg contributed to the University Honors Program.

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)
- Andrew Molina, Graduate Assistant (September through May 09)

The program employed 10 student workers: Anthony Villanacci, Amber Jackson, Lindsay Howell, Rhonda Martinez, Marc Seidel, Jessa McKinnis, Josh Munoz, Elissa Fontenot, Meghan Taylor, and Caitlin Hagans.

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. Honors students and non-Honors students alike enjoy its facilities and visit regularly.

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 four exhibits during 08-09: “Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ,” “2008 Study Abroad Photo Contest,” “Borders,” and “HOPE- Helping Other People Everywhere.” Each reception held for the exhibits was a lively event featuring talks and interaction among students, faculty, and community residents. Students on campus from Juilliard joined in the “Borders” exhibit.

The Honors Program hosted numerous gatherings in the Coffee Forum over 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 Turk Pipkin Austin filmmaker, and filmmakers David Redmond and Ashley Sabrin. The Honors Program also held a reception to welcome back Wayne O’Quinn and his Juilliard team before their performance “A Time to Break the Silence.” 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 student thesis presentations in the Fall and Spring. 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, Conversation Circle, the Japanese Club, and STAND—a student anti-genocide coalition. Also students watched the Presidential Debates as well as the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Lab instructors for several science courses held their office hours in the Lampasas Coffee Forum. Off campus visitors to the coffee forum include students from the San Marcos school district and local community members visiting the Gallery of the Common Experience.

Scholarships

The program currently administers 4 different scholarships totaling \$30,500 per year: Craddock Scholarships (\$1,500 each per annum), the FitzPatrick Scholarships (\$1,000 each per annum), BJ & Stan Friedman Scholarships (\$1,500 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.

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 and the honors email, 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, receptions for alumni and artists whose work is exhibited in the Gallery of Common Experience, Multicultural Dinner night, and BBQ picnics for honors students and faculty.

HSA Officers: Matt Ferreira: President, Steven Gates: Vice-President, Stephanie Boyd: Treasurer, Kendall Rust: Historian, and Amanda Schramm: Secretary

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 2008 | Spring 09 | Summer 09 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---|
| Active honors students | 890 | 970 | |
| Honors courses offered/new | 20/10 | 20/5 | 0 |
| 12 th day/end Enrollment | 266/unknown | 250/299 | 0 |
| Contract courses | 3 | 10 | 2 |
| Graduates in UHP | 7 | 26 | 3 |

Graduation in the University Honors Program by College:

| College | Fall 2008 | Spring 2009 | Summer 2009 |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Applied Arts | | 1 | |
| Business | | 2 | |
| Education | | 0 | |
| Fine Arts & Comm. | 1 | 4 | |
| Health Professions | | 0 | |
| Liberal Arts | 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Science | | 7 | 1 |
| Totals | 7 | 26 | -0- |

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
- Andrew Molina, English graduate assistant
- Rhonda Martinez, Education major
- Max Warshauer, Mathematics
- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Jeff Gordan, Philosophy
- Caitlin Hagans, International Studies major
- Dan Lochman, English

Scholarship Committees

Craddock & Honors Scholarships

- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Elvin Holt, English
- William Liddle, History
- Lynette Watkins, Chemistry

Fitzpatrick Scholarship

- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program

BJ and Stan Scholarship

- Friedman, BJ – Nutrition
- Friedman, Stan - Psychology

Honors Scholarship Committee

- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Vicente Lopes, Biology
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Max Warshauer, Mathematics

Thesis Grant Committee

- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Amanda Mjos, Modern Languages
- William Chittenden, Finance & Economics
- Chloe Yingst, Art & Design

University Honors Program Committee

The University Honors Program receives direction and advice from the University Honors Program Committee. For FY 2009, the committee consisted of:

- Gwynne Ash, Curriculum & Instruction
- Gary Beall, Chemistry
- James Bell, Management
- Ron Brown, University College
- William T. Chittenden, Finance & Economics
- B.J. Friedman, Nutrition & Foods
- Heather Galloway, University Honors Program
- Carol Hazlewood, Computer Science
- Verna Henson, Criminal Justice
- Priscilla Leder, Political Science
- Melanie Liddle, University Honors Program
- Roseann Mandziuk, Communication Studies
- Diann McCabe, University Honors Program
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Margeret Menninger, History
- Eileen Morisson, Health Administration
- Nico Schuler, Music
- Max Warshauer, Mathematics

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| HONORS FACULTY |
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| Fall 2008 | Spring 2009 |
|---|----------------------------|
| Abunseir, A., Modern Languages | Bach, U., Modern Languages |
| Canabal, M., Family and Consumer Sciences | Bell-Metereau, R., English |

| | |
|--|--|
| Fling, Psychology (Professor Emerita) | Ferrero, D., Math |
| Galloway, H., University Honors | Hanson, S., English |
| Gordon, J., Philosophy | Hood, J., Theatre & Dance |
| Hadder, N., Anthropology | Hutcheson, P., Philosophy |
| Hale, Business | Hustvedt, G., Family and Consumer Sciences |
| Hawkins, C., Social Work | Galloway, H., University Honors |
| Hood, J., Theatre & Dance | Ginsburg, H., Psychology |
| Lopes, V., Biology | Gonzales, C., Music |
| McCabe, D., University Honors | Grasso, K., Political Science |
| Makowski, History | McCabe, T., Math |
| Menninger, M., History | McCabe, D., University Honors |
| Morrison, S., English | McKinney, A., Philosophy |
| Monroe, D., English | Sorto, A., Math |
| Renick, C., Health Administration | Stokes, A., Business |
| Salem, P., Communication Studies | Weimer, T., Modern Language |
| Subervi, F Fine Arts and Communication | Wilson, S., English |
| Ward, K., Political Science | |
| Warshauer, M., Math | |
| Wilson, N., English | |

Honors Awards:

Honors students show their appreciation to a 08-09 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 Fall 08 and Spring 09, the following received acknowledgement from honors students:

- Mark Carter (Department of Geography) and Twister Marquiss (Department of English), Stephanie Goodbread Advisor of the Year nominated by Angelika Fuller and Gabriella Lombardo
- Janet Hale (Department of Finance & Economics), University Honors Professors of the Year nominated by Sarah Hadley
- Lisa Chrans, Mary Lou Bishop Advisor of the Year nominated by Amanda Wilson

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

- John Hood, Federico Subervi, Catherine Hawkins, Diann McCabe, and Heather Galloway taught honors sections of US1100 in the fall of 2008
- John Hood and friends performed bluegrass music for the honors leadership retreat in September 2008
- 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.
- Oren Renick was published in the Statesman in the article "Sharing the lessons that defy season" because he was learning baseball from a student.
- English professor Steve Wilson won the Everett Swinney Senate Teaching Award.
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Honors Student Achievements

- Roxanne Moralez (Senior, Accounting) continues to serve National Collegiate Honors Council on board of directors and Student Concerns committee for a two-year term as a student representative.
- Rhonda Martinez (Sophomore, Interdisciplinary Studies [4-8] with Math and Science Focus) serves National Collegiate Honors Council on Student Concerns committee for a two-year term as a student representative. Rhonda Martinez is spending summer 2009 in New Hampshire participating in a Summer Research Experience at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest: Investigating and Communicating Change in Ecosystems. A native of San Marcos, Rhonda is enjoying the weather in New Hampshire.
- 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.
- Rebekah Frank (Art & Design) presented the poster, The Inspiration of Micrography for Art: The Hidden Beauty of Nature, at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in San Antonio in November 2008. The poster committee head asked permission to use Rebekah's work as an example of a well-executed poster for the NCHC website for next year. See Sample 2 at <http://www.nchchonors.org/poster-guidelines.html> Rebekah's poster subject explored how micrographs inspire arts and was one of a few art-focused posters at the conference. Her work originated in her first honors class, Seeds of Change: Plants and Society, taught by Dr. Flores. For a closer look at Frank's work and information on other exhibits of her work, see her website: <http://www.foxlightforge.com>
- Zachary Christman (Theatre) directed a theatre production of Bertolt Brecht's Baal on three evenings in March as part of his honors thesis, Brecht, Baal, Barton, under the supervision of Professor John Hood.
- Kailey Sloan (Communication Studies '09) was named the Sallie Baretta Outstanding Senior Woman. Kailey will begin her masters in Communication Studies in the fall of 2009
- Martha Bitar (International Studies) published "Language Gain, Language Loss: The Production of K'iche'tellano" in Highland Guatemala with professors Charise Pimentel (English) and Ana Juarez (Anthropology) in the 26th issue of the International Journal of Language, Society and Culture.
- Angelika Fuller (Geography) is spending the summer volunteering with No More Deaths. She learned of the program after watching John Carlos Frey's film, 1969 Miles, which opened the Tournees International Film Festival on campus last March. For more information, see <http://www.nomoredeaths.org/>
- Sean Guillory (Philosophy '08) will attend graduate school at Dartmouth College in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Department in the fall of 2009 and this summer he is working in the Mind Science Foundation.
- Jessica Spangler (Geography and German '09) was active in the University Honors Program and has been awarded a Fulbright award to study and teach English in Germany at a high school in the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz.
- Spencer Ledoux (Anthropology) was the student commencement speaker for the College of Liberal Arts for May graduation. Although he was accepted to attend

graduate school at Cambridge, Oxford, and the University of Chicago, he decided the best place to work on a MS in European Archeology was the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

- Susan Rauch (English) presented her honors thesis, *Ever Dear Cousin... An Annotated Historiography of mid-19th century German-American Settlers in the Midwest United States*, at the National Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse in April. Chosen from thousands of submissions, her abstract displayed a unique contribution to her field of study. Dr. Susan Morrison, Department of English, supervised Rauch's thesis.
- Veronica Suarez (Anthropology) just returned after completing two semesters at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon where she took courses through the National Student Exchange Program. See related story.
- Anthony Villanacci (History), nominated by the University Honors Program, was the student commencement speaker for the College of Liberal Arts in December. Anthony is working on a second degree majoring in Engineering Technology. He continues to serve as the graphic artist for Honors and the Common Experience.
- Geoffrey Miller (Mathematics 09) was the University Honors Program nominee for the August student commencement speaker. Geoffrey will begin graduate school in Mathematics in the fall 09 semester.
- Carlos Perez (Biochemistry) participated in the Christian Medical and Dental Association Mission Trip in Laredo, TX in March. The trip offered free medical and dental care to the community, and Carlos translated for doctors and helped with the intake of patients in the clinic. Last summer Carlos had an internship at the University of Illinois at Chicago doing neurobiology research on alcoholism with Dr. Subhash C. Pandey. Their work involved the design of new pharmacotherapy to counteract alcoholism. The lab used animal models (rats) genetically predisposed to high or low alcohol consumption, and they explored how different levels of protein and gene expression in various areas of the extended amygdala (central, medial and basolateral amygdala, Nucleus Accumbens and BNST) can cause anxiety-like and alcohol-drinking behaviors. Carlos' work involved obtaining hundreds of brain sections for cutting, labeling with double immunofluorescence techniques, mounting and analyzing the sections under a confocal microscope. Carlos presented his research at UIC at the end of July and also at Michigan State University

Four honors students and one Texas State faculty member attended the National Collegiate Honors Council held in San Antonio, Texas in November 2008, titled: *Crossing Frontiers*

- **Rhonda Martinez** (Sophomore, Education)
- **Chelsea Fielder** (Graduated), presentation: "Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior Regarding Eating a Healthy Diet and Exercising in Relation to Self-Esteem in College Students"
- **Rebekah Frank** (Junior, Studio Art), presentation: "Inherent Beauty of Natural Forms"
- **Roxanne Moralez** (Senior, Accounting), Executive Board Member of NCHC
- **Heather Galloway** (Director), presentation: "Orientation to Honors: New Ways to Do It"

HONORS PROGRAM OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Honors Leadership Retreat: Held in September 2008, attendance at the retreat was required for incoming 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 University Honors building and Aquarena Springs Center. Honors faculty joined the retreat for dinner and a talent show, including John Hood, Terry McCabe, and Max Warshauer.

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 2008-09 theme, "Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ," including collaborating with departments across campus to bring visitors to campus, serving on the Common Experience team, displaying portraits of LBJ and related art work in an art gallery in the Honors building, and designing and printing posters announcing the various events. Common Experience meetings in preparation for next year's 2009-2010 theme "The Whole Mind" met regularly in the Honors building as well.

OSSW Debate Watch Party and Post-Debate Dialogue, November 2008: Sponsored by the Organization of Student Social Workers, Texas State University students met in the Honors coffee forum to become better informed about the issues in a respectful, bipartisan dialogue as way to have civic engagement in the Common Experience theme. The event was moderated by Dr. Christine Lynn Norton, Assistant Professor in the School of social work.

The Roosevelt Institution: The first student-run policy research group in the United States. Its goal is to impact students by empowering them to become involved in politics. This institution encourages students to make an impact in their communities by creating positive change.

Turk Pipkin: Filmmaker Turk Pipkin hosted the screening of his documentary *Nobelity* and talked about his experiences with civic responsibility in the LBJ Teaching Theatre. Texas State students and faculty were invited to an informal reception to meet Pipkin on Tuesday, September 16 in Lampasas 407 (Honors Coffee Forum).

Meet the Professor Night Fall 08: New and current Honors students were invited to meet the professors teaching Honors class for the Spring semester. Senior Honors Student Zachary Christman was the MC for the night and professors gave a 5-minute speech on their Honors course. Students and faculty were stayed afterwards for refreshments and conversation.

Conversation Circle: Texas State students met with fellow international students for conversation and coffee on a monthly basis.

John Bailly's Pax Romana: John Bailly, who lead a workshop at the Fall Honors Retreat, from The Honors College at Florida International University, had an art gallery displayed in the Mitte Art Building. His Pax Romana was displayed from October 23 to November 21, 2008.

Dia de Los Muertos, October- November 2008: Cultural and learning campus-wide event of the Mexican tradition of honoring the dead when they return to satisfy their hunger was lead by Beatriz Gomez, Honors student, and Leslie Huayek. Along with an alter to display family

relatives and friends and their gifts, time was given to share personal relation with event, a ballet folklorico performance, and there were refreshments.

The Labyrinth Museum of Art: Students in Professor Hadder's Museum of Representation displayed their class project of their semester project of a museum model and class museum portfolio in the Honors forum.

Thesis Forum Presentations (open to the whole campus)

- Heidi Kluber: Rising Healthcare Costs in the United States: Contributing Factors and Potential Solutions
- Daniel Palmer, Patrick Read, Dan E. Tamir, Conrad Newton, Willhelmus J. Geerts: Optical Lithography on Non-flat Surfaces
- Sabrina G. Hyde, Frankie Hruzek: Selling Texas to the French
- Sherry Albers, Nirmala Karunarathne, Sunethra Dharmasiri, Nihal Dharmasiri: Identification of New Auxin-related Arabidopsis Mutants Using a Molecular Genetic Approach
- Anthony Villanacci: The Beehive as a Model in Transatlantic English Migration
- Sean Guillory: Individual and Hemispheric Differences Between Our Affective and Humor Judgments
- Lindsay McEwing, Michelle Lane: The Effect of Retinol on Beta-catenin and PI3K Activity in Colon Cancer Cells
- Julie Coyle, Caitlin Gabor, Andrea Aspbury: Male Mate Selection of *Poecilia latipinna* Under Wading Bird Predation-Risk
- Rebekah Frank: The Inspiration of Micrography for Art
- Emma Stephens, Adrienne Enderle, Sarah Williams, Hanna Sanborn: Eve Through the Ages: Female Power in Religion
- Christopher Page, Mina Guirguis: Securing Future Internet Routing: To Splice or Not to Splice?
- Danielle Garcia, John Martin: Predator/Prey Interactions of Freshwater Crayfish and Invasive *M. tuberculata*
- Michelle Parmley, Kim Dearing: Factors Effecting Predatory Consumption Rates: Habitat Complexity and Native/Non-native Species Interactions
- Elizabeth Vanderwerken, Monica Gomez: Freshwater Snail Response to Introduction of Starved vs. Non-starved Crayfish
- Sarah McMillan, Jon G. Rothlander, Cari Scherer, John Wilson: Colonization of Insects on Artificial Substrate in Lampasas River, Bell County, Texas
- Catherine Colvin, Allison Lynn: Prey Refuge Level Impact on Consumption Rates of Native and Non-native Fish Species
- Parham Bahador: The Chemical Sensing of *Melanoides tuberculatus* in the Presence of Crayfish

3rd Annual URC Fall 2008

Poster Presentations(open to all)

- Aaron Brannon and Rebecca Denham: Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*: Carriage Rates and Characterization of Students in a Texas
- Chelsea Fielder: Knowledge, Motivations, and Behavior Regarding Eating a Healthy Diet and Physical Activity in Relation to Self-Esteem in College Students

- Danielle del Castillo Shelton: A Better System for Them: Compare and Contrast Policy Analysis of the Food Aid Distribution Policies of the European Union vs. the United States
- Michael L. Beebower, Benjamin R. Martin: Ion Exchange Reactions to Synthesize New Lanthanum Selenidas
- Eva Tweedy, Natalie Ceballos: Effects of Country of Origin on Health Habits: U.S. vs. U.K.
- Daniel Palmer, Patrick Read, Dan E. Tamir, Conrad Newton, and Willhelmus J. Geerts: Optical Lithography on Non-flat Surfaces
- Sabrina G. Hyde and Frankie Hruzek: Selling Texas to the French
- Sherry Albers, Nirmala Karunarthne, Sunethra Dharmasiri, and Nihal Dharmasiri: Identification of New Auxin-related Arabidopsis Mutants Using a Molecular Genetic Approach
- Jessica Karr, Katherine Miller, and Susan Marqusee: A cis-proline in the Hinge Region of R Nase Acts as a Conformational Gatekeeper for Domain Swapping
- Veronica Newton, Kristyn Milam, Brittany Wiese, Reid Jackson, and Natalie Ceballos: Impact of Gender and Ethnicity on Attitudes about Tobacco among Smoking and Non-smoking College Students
- Lindsay McEwing and Michelle Lane: The Effect of Retinol on Beta-catenin and P13K Activity in Colon Cancer Cells
- Julie Coyle, Caitlin Gabor, and Andrea Aspbury: Male Mate Selection of Poecilia latipinna Under Wading Bird Predation-Risk
- Rebekah Frank: The inspiration of Micrography for Art
- Emma Stephens, Adrienne Enderle, Sarah Williams, and Hanna Sanborn: Eve Through the Ages: Female Power in Religion
- Christopher Page and Mina Guirguis: Securing Future Internet Routing: To Splice or Not to Splice?
- Danielle Garcia and John Martin: Predator/Prey Interactions of Frewshwater Crayfish and Invasive M.tuberculata
- Elizabeth Vanderwerken and Monica Gonez: Freshwater Snail Response to Introduction of Starved vs. Non-starved Crayfish
- Sarah McMillan, Jon G. Rothlander, Cari Scherer, and John Wilson: Colonizaton of Insects on Artifical Substrate in Lampasas River, Bell County, Texas
- Catherine Colvin and Allison Lynn: Prey Refruge Level Impact on Consumption Rates of Native and Non-native Fish Species
- Parham Bahador: The Chemical Sensing of Melanoides Tuberculatus in the Presence of Crayfish

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

Winning posters: 1st place, Lindsay McEwing and Prof. Michelle Lane for “The Effect of Retinol on Beta-catenin and PI3K Activity in Colon Cancer Cells.” 2nd place went to Aaron Brannon and Rebecca Denham for “Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Carriage Rates and Characterization of Students in a Texas University.” Third place went to Rebekah Frank’s “The Inspiration of Micrography for Art.”

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

supervising professors.

- Michael L. Beebower, Benjamin R. Martin: Ion Exchange Reactions to Synthesize New Lanthanum Selenides
- Aaron Brannon, Rebecca Denham: Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*: Carriage Rates and Characterization of Students in a Texas University
- Danielle del Castillo Shelton: A Better System for Them: Compare and Contrast Policy Analysis of the Food Aid Distribution Policies of the European Union vs. the United States
- Chelsea Fielder: Knowledge, Motivations, and Behavior Regarding Eating a Healthy Diet and Physical Activity in Relation to Self-Esteem in College Students
- Sean Guillory: Individual and Hemisphere Differences Between Our Affective and Humor Judgements
- Heidi Kluber: Rising Healthcare Costs in the United States: Contributing Factors and Potential Solutions
- Daniel Palmer, Patrick Read, Dan E. Tamir, Conrad Newton, and Willhelmus J. Geerts: Optical Lithography on Non-flat Surfaces
- Chad Starrak: Over Seas and Stones: Reflections on Cambodia
- Eva Tweedy, Natalie Ceballos: Effects of Country of Origin on Health Habits: U.S. vs. U.K.
- Anthony Villanacci: The Beehive as a Model in Transatlantic English Migration

Honors Thesis Forums, Spring 2009: Open to students completing their honors theses and supervising professors.

- Jordan R. Albracht: Free Will in the 21st Century: An Investigation of the Significance of Contemporary Naturalism and Technological Innovation for Human Freedom
- Brian J. Allen: Knowledge-base of Hispanic Women about Neural Tube Defects and Folic Acid Supplementation
- Alexander Alfonso: Evolution or Ignorance: Online Social Networking and the Law
- Agustin Barajas: Contemporary Moral Challenges In Business And Business Education In The 21st Century: Introducing Flow At Texas State University
- Roberto Barrera: On the Power Domination Problem in Graphs
- Kevin K. Beahan: American Religion: From Civic Engagement to Expressive Individualism
- Stephanie L. Boyd: Horse AWAREness
- Jenny Anne Canfield: Dialects: A Study of Dialects Around the World and How to Learn Them
- Zachary E. Christman: Brecht, Baal, Barton
- Marilyn A. Del Bosque: From Neutrality to War: What the Russian Revolution had to do with Wilson's Decision to Enter the Great War
- Michael A. Dimitri: Creating an Online Student Resource: CollegeEconomics.Com
- Angel K. Durr: Fighting For the Right to Choose: The Modern American African-American Female Republicans
- Matthew T. Ferreira: A Study of the Impact of Kinesthetic Learning on Biology Students' Mastery of Protein Structure and Folding Concepts using Legos™
- Sarah Elizabeth Freebourn: Two Cultures, One Heart: A Comparative Analysis between a Japanese Matsuri and an American Festival

- Kyle J. Henry: Expression of the Intermediate Filaments Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein and Keratin in the Visual Pathway of *Danio rerio*
- Meagan N. Henry: The Food Price Crisis of 2008: Impacts and Responses with a Case Study on Argentina
- Elizabeth G. Hunt: Study of Museum Lighting and Design
- Lyndsey Kirk: Hypoxic Stress Induced Gene Modulation in Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) and *Xiphophorus maculatus*
- Spencer C. LeDoux: Embodying the Sacred: Temporal Changes in the Cosmological Function of Art and Symbolism in the Mississippian Period, AD 1250 – AD 1400
- Geoffrey Miller: Dawn of Shadows: Apertures in Time
- Franklin A. Morris: Tropics And Meridians: Short Stories
- Meghan A. Nichols: Young Victims Of Sexual Trauma: An Adolescent Treatment Facility's Efforts to Help Residents Cope and Heal
- Erin Oliver: Relationships between Problem Solving Strategies and Brain Hemisphericity in High School Students
- Joanna Patane: Reform of TEKS High School Chemistry Standards for Better College and Career Preparation
- Michael Phillips: Critical Theory in Japanese New Wave Cinema
- Hayat D. Qurunful: Mapping Genetically Engineered Seed Litigation in the United States
- Susan T. Rauch: Ever Dear Cousin... An Annotated Historiography of mid-19th Century German-American Settlers in the Midwest United States
- Sy Redding: Low Energy Electron Diffraction Study of Epitaxial Cr₂O₃(0001) Films Grown on Cr(110)
- Kailey Rae Slone: The Baptist Way(s): A Rhetorical Analysis of Texas Baptist Sermon Rhetoric
- Supervising Professor: Dr. Roseann Mandziuk, Department of Communication Studies
- Graduating spring 2009 in the University Honors Program with a minor in Honors Studies
- Catherine Solon: Defensive Attributions as a Function of Gender
- Meredith A. Stephens: Gender Differences in Parenting Styles and Its Effect on the Parent-Child Relationship
- Goyland Williams: The Politics of Democracy in Botswana: Model or Illusion?
- Bliss Wilson: Food Perception Bias: Body Mass Index and Snacking Behaviors

Multicultural Dinner, February 2009: The Honors Student Association encouraged Honors students to bring a dish to celebrate our different backgrounds that are present both in the Honors program and on campus. The dinner that was held in February had a great turnout from honors students, other Texas State University students, and Honors professors.

Conversation with Corey, February 2009: sponsored by the McCoy College of Business

Darwin's 200th Birthday Celebration, February 2009: Cake and refreshments for presentations and discussions led by Honors Ever Since Darwin class on "Darwin's Theory, Critiques Past and Present," "Modern Biology & Medicine," "Modern Psychology," and "Western Civilization & Religion." The film *Inherit the Wind* (1960) based on a real-life case in 1925, where two great lawyers argue the case for and against a science teacher accused of the crime of teaching evolution was showed in Honors forum afterwards.

University Honors Game Night, February 2009: Honors students were invited to come and join in the fun at game night in the Honors Coffee Forum. This was a great time to relax and take a break from the past couple weeks filled with exams. There were board games, snacks, and puzzles for students.

Scholars Day, February 2009: An informational presentation was lead by the director and time was allowed for students and parents to browse different tables with students from different honors classes. Students that participated were Rick Zuniga, Matt Ferreira, Kevin Beahan, Sam McCabe, Kevin Kemp, Hayat Qurunful, Kendall Rust, Lindsay Kirk, Joel Davis, Alex Rasche, Anthony Villanacci, Zach Christman, Ava Pope, Marc Seidel, Rhonda Martinez, Kailey Slone, Catherine Solon, Christian Wallace, Holly Watson, Shannon Fitzpatrick, ASG, Student Foundation, and University Ambassadors

Border-in-sight reception, March 2009: A documentary of lives caught between two cultures through a combination of three photography projects with the similar concepts. "Children of the Colonias Project: Through Our Own Lenses," "The Borderland Youth Documentary Project," and "America's Migrant Farmworkers," present the lives of children and their families living along geo/political borders, most between the US and Mexico. Speakers for the reception were Dr. Jaime Chahin and Jason Reed. Alan Pogue was scheduled to speak as well but was unable to attend.

The Tournéss Festival, March-April 2009: This Film Festival and Symposium featured films related to "Filmmaking and Responsibility." Diann McCabe moderated "Her name is Sabine"- a documentary that examines the mental and emotional aspects of autism, while exposing its inadequate care structures.

Meet the Professors Night, April 2009: New and current Honors students were invited to meet the professors teaching Honors class for the Fall semester. Senior Honors Student Matthew Ferreira was the MC for the night and professors gave a 5-minute speech on their Honors course. Students and faculty were stayed afterwards for refreshments and conversation.

Awards Ceremony, April 2009: For the first annual University Honors Program Award Ceremony the program recognized its donors Dr. Steve Zinkgraf, Dr. and Mrs. William Liddle, and Mr. Steve Gregg. In addition, the program recognized Dr. Janet Hale, Department of Finance & Economics for the Honors Professor of the Year. Mr. Mark Carter, Mr. Twister Marquiss, and Ms. Lisa Chrans were recognized as the Stephanie Goodbread and Mary Lou Bishop awardees. Students awarded the Marry Kone FitzPatrick, Emmie Craddock, BJ & Stan Friedman, and The University Honors scholarships were recognized in addition to students who have completed three or more honors classes and maintained a 3.25 GPA. Students who have completed seven or more honors courses and maintained a 3.25 GPA were also recognized. Lastly, the attendees of the 2008 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, the HSA officers, and the honors graduates were recognized.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- The Mitte Recognition Wall was un-installed from the entrance hallway to Lampasas Hall

- A new media cart, projector, and screen were installed in room 501.
- White boards were installed in room 502B.
- (Amount?) New coffee cups from IKEA were purchased.
- A label machine was added to the front desk.
- A new printer was added for student worker printing only.
- The 2008 Honors Leadership Retreat was sponsored by a generous donation by Dr. & Mrs. Steve Zingraf.
- 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, a Texas State Parent Association grant, and a Coke grant.
- The first Departmental Honors course, Business Law 2361 was offered in the Fall '08 and Spring '09 semester and will be offered in the Fall 09 semester.
- Meetings with Mathematics and the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department resulted in Departmental Honor courses for Organic Chemistry, Calculus I, and Calculus II offered in the fall '09 semester.
- Honors housing in Butler Hall for incoming freshman and current Honors students will be offered in the Fall 09 semester.