

## Annual Report: 2012-2013

### Honors College Texas State University

<http://www.txstate.edu/honors/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/txstatehonors>

<b>DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGE</b>
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Honors Colleges serve a unique function in institutions with highly heterogeneous student bodies such as ours. Ideally, Honors Colleges provide diverse curricula for a wide array 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 Honors College ensures that the ablest students do not lose their enthusiasm for learning while having the opportunity to explore new ideas and options. The Honors College provides a means for the university to recruit and retain talented and gifted students who might be drawn to other universities without such a college. In addition, our staff provides students personal assistance in planning their educational and career goals.

The Honors College has grown significantly since it was founded in 1967 by History professor, Dr. Emmie Craddock. Currently, the Honors College serves more than 1488 of Texas State University's best and brightest students. Students take Honors seminars from the university's best faculty who teach subjects they know and love. Honors faculty from departments and colleges across campus explore new research areas or teaching methods in Honors seminars, which serve as teaching laboratories for faculty. Additionally, we offer scholarships annually to Honors students. This year Mrs. Kambra Kae Bolch, Mr. James M. Camp, Mrs. Marcy R. Garcia, Dr. Catherine M. Jaffe, Mrs. Diann A. McCabe, the Tri-M Foundation, Ms. Amy Eoff, Ms. Melanie Liddle, Mr. Rick Haas and Dr. Heather Galloway, Ms. Margaret Vaverek, and Westbrook Metals, Inc. made financial contributions to the Honors College.

In addition to providing academic and programming opportunities for 1488 Honors students, we serve a broader student population through several widespread initiatives: 1) recruiting the best high school students from across the state in collaboration with the Admissions Office through mailings, Bobcat Day presentations, open house events, and special initiatives to recruit scholars; 2) 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; 3) supporting our students' participation in and faculty offerings of quality study abroad opportunities; 4) collaborating with Residence Life on the honors living learning community in Butler Hall; and 5) continuing collaborations on undergraduate research across campus with the Undergraduate Research Conference and Thesis Forum, the S.U.R.F. (Student Undergraduate Research Fund) program, the TXSTUR (Texas State Undergraduate Research) electronic publication, and special advising and workshops on applications to prestigious post graduate fellowships.

## **Goals for 2012-13**

1. Maintain current programs - In light of increased enrollment, we will need to work to continue our high quality work in scholarships, undergraduate research – especially in continuing the SURF project, Common Experience and related student programming, freshmen programs including the US 1100 courses and Honors Learning Community, Honors curriculum development, Honors advising, and recruitment.
2. Increase Honors enrollment. Our target is 500 class enrollments/semester by 2014-2015. We are on track for this goal.
3. Increase Honors College graduates –Our target is 100/year by 2014-2015. We will need to increase our work with Honors advising to meet this goal.
4. Increase Development Work - Raise \$10,000, update alumni list, hold Chautauqua event
5. Submit PBK application
6. Revise Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal standards

### **Special Initiatives**

- Collaborated with staff of Finance and Support Services Planning to renovate the area between Lampasas Hall and ASB into an outdoor classroom and space of relaxation. This initiative came from the Dean and a student's conversation.
- Applications submitted to establish Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi chapters at Texas State. PKP was approved.

<b>STATE OF THE COLLEGE</b>
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### **Administration**

- Dr. Heather Galloway, Dean (full-time) and Professor of Physics
- Diann A. McCabe, Director of Academic Development (full-time faculty)
- John Hood, Senior Lecturer and Scholarship & Fellowship Advisor (full-time faculty)
- Melanie Liddle, Senior Administrative Assistant (full-time)
- Benjamin Robinson Chasin, Graduate Assistant and Elementary Education Graduate Student
- Ky Stevens, Graduate Assistant and English Graduate Student (Spring 2013)
- Kristen Verrill, Graduate Assistant and English Graduate Student, (Fall 2012)
- Fred Childers, Graphic Designer and Communication Design Undergraduate Student
- Sunny Tompkins, Common Experience student coordinator and Journalism major

### **Honors Student Coordinators**

- Randi Berkovsky
- Elliott Brandsma
- Melissa Esparza
- Lisa Hanna
- Brandon Illig
- Jessica Loechel
- Amanda Magera
- Elissa Myers
- Isaac Ortega
- Alex Hodge-Ratliff

- Robert Sanchez
- Zoha Shafiq
- Daniel Shay
- Sarah Vielma
- Matt Wood

### **Honors Learning Community, Butler Hall**

The Honors learning community lived together on the same floor of a Butler residence hall. Students in Butler took Honors sections of US1100 and participated in special programming throughout the year.

**Resident Assistants:** Jose Dominguez, Biochemistry  
Clancy Taylor, Geography

### **Admission to and participation in the Honors College**

Students can join the Honors College on a rolling admissions basis. Eligible incoming freshman have composite SAT scores of 1180 or better, or ACT scores of 27 or better, or have graduated in the top 10% of their high school class. Eligible continuing or transfer students have GPAs of 3.25 or more. Once accepted into the college, students may choose to take one or more honors classes. Additionally, students are invited to various college events and can make use of the space in Lampasas for study, meetings, or conversation. Advising for honors courses and assistance in applying for post-graduate programs are provided on a regular basis through student-initiated appointments and through scheduled programs. The Honors website, [www.txstate.edu/honors](http://www.txstate.edu/honors), the honors email, [honors@txstate.edu](mailto:honors@txstate.edu), and Honors Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/txstatehonors>, provide initial contact information, responses to basic questions and updates.

Students who choose to **graduate in the college** 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 present their theses during the thesis semester as part of the Undergraduate Research Conference or Thesis Forum.

As of fall 2006 Honors students have the option of earning a **minor 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. Students who complete the minor in Honors Studies and who earn at least a 3.25 GPA also graduate in the Honors College.

### **Recruitment Efforts**

Traditionally students have learned about the Honors College through our website, by word of mouth, and from professors. For the past eight years, Honors staff members have worked closely with the Admissions office to have a significant presence at Bobcat Days and to host potential freshman recruits who are invited to lunch and open house presentations with Honors staff and students.

This past year, Honors staff and students participated in two Bobcat Days in the fall and two in the spring. In addition, staff and students interacted with invited students and parents at two lunches and open houses, one in the fall and one in the spring.

In the summer of 2013, Honors staff and students held approximately 26 open house sessions for NSO students who had joined the Honors College or who were interested in learning more. Some sessions had

50 or more students. In response to the overwhelming response, staff added a 9<sup>th</sup> honors section of US1100 and increased enrollment to 20 in classes for freshmen.

### **The Honors Students Association**

Open to all honors students, the Honors Student Association (HSA) provides an avenue for student involvement in the governance of the college and for interaction with honors students. Members serve on the Honors College committee, the honors curriculum committee, and host a “Meet the Professor Night” for incoming honors faculty each semester. Members are encouraged to participate in other on-campus organizations, serving as the student voice of the Honors College. 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, fundraisers for cancer research, multicultural dinners, and picnics for Honors students and faculty.

#### **2012-2013 HSA Officers**

- President: Alex Hodge-Ratliff
- Vice-President: Jose Dominguez
- Secretary: Angelica Riojas
- Treasurer: Clancy Taylor
- Historian: Tiffany Rainey
- Event Coordinator/Public Relations: Chandler Franklin

### **Honors Courses**

Professors are invited to propose honors courses through an all-campus email sent by the Provost’s office. Once a professor submits a course proposal, the honors curriculum committee interviews the professor. Once the committee approves the course proposal, it is approved by the honors dean, 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.

<http://www.txstate.edu/honors/current/Courses.html>.

#### **Fall 2012 Course Schedule and Enrollment**

23 honors courses plus 6 departmental honors courses for a total of 29 offerings. A record 413 students enrolled in Honors courses in the fall.

#### **Spring 2013 Course Schedule and Enrollment**

25 honors courses plus 5 departmental honors courses for a total of 30 courses. 395 students enrolled in the spring.

#### **Summer 2013 Course Schedule and Enrollment**

3 honors courses plus two study abroad honors offerings for a total of five honors courses.

## **Departmental Honors Courses**

In the fall of 2008 Honors experimented with departmental honors courses, offering BLAW 2361 in an attempt to appeal to students from the McCoy College of Business Administration. In an effort to reach out to students from majors unrepresented in Honors, we have sought to add departmental courses each semester.

### **Fall 2012**

BLAW 2361, CS 1428, ECO 3311, GS 3310, MATH 2471, and SPAN 2310  
Eight honors sections of US 1100 were offered in the Fall 12 semester. Honors sections of US1100 are not considered departmental honors courses.

### **Spring 2013**

ECO 3311, GS 3320, MATH 2472, MKT 3343, and SPAN 2320

## **HON 4391, the Honors Independent Study**

Beginning in fall 2007 students have had the option of enrolling 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.

### **Fall 2012**

Seven (7) honors students completed honors independent study.

### **Spring 2013**

Seven (7) honors students completed honors independent study.

### **Summer 2013**

Two (2) honors students completed HON 4391, for a total of 16 independent studies in 2012-13.

## **The Honors Contract Course**

Students can also earn honors credit through an honors contract course. By contracting with a professor in an advanced non-honors course, a student receives honors credit for the course upon completing the regular course requirements plus the equivalent of 15% additional work set forth in the honors contract.

### **Fall 2012**

Five (5) students completed honors contracts in the fall of 2012.

### **Spring 2013**

Five (5) students completed honors contracts in the spring of 2013.

### **Summer 2013**

One (1) student completed an honors contract in the summer for a total of 11 honors contracts this past year.

Both the Honors Independent Study and Honors Contract course provide opportunities for Honors students to engage in undergraduate research under the supervision of a faculty member while earning honors course credit. This option is especially helpful for students who do not find substitutions that fit their degree requirements in the Honors College.

### Summer Study Abroad

Two new study abroad offerings were attempted, one in India and one in England, but due to insufficient enrollment the offerings were cancelled. Two seasoned study abroad offerings in Oxford and Paris had healthy enrollment in the summer of 2013.

<b>Fall 2012–Spring 2013 HONORS FACULTY</b>
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<b>Fall 2012</b>	<b>Spring 2013</b>
Bishop, P., Theatre & Dance	Bell-Metereau, R., English
Chiles, E., Art & Design	Chiles, E., Art & Design
Close, E., Physics	Close, E., Physics
Ellis-Lai, L., English	Cuadrado, A., Modern Languages (Spanish)
Fischer, R., Philosophy	Dickinson, M., Instructional Design
Galloway, H., Honors	Ferrero, D., Mathematics
Hanks, C., Philosophy	Fisk, R., Marketing
Hawkins, C., SOWK	Galloway, H., Honors
Hood, J., Honors	Grasso, K., POSI
Hustvedt, G., FCS	Hanson, S., English
Kishan, R., Economics	Hawkins, C., SOWK
Lemke, M., Biology	Holt, E., English
McCabe, D., Honors	Hood, J., Honors
Macor, A., Art & Design	Hutcheson, P., Philosophy
Makowski, E., History	Kishan, R., Economics
Mellard, J., History	Lemke, M., Biology
Morey, S., Mathematics	Liddle, W., History
Morrison, S., English	Martin, C., Modern Languages (French)
Peirce, K., English	Martinez, G., Mass Comm/Journalism
Porras, Y., Modern Languages (Spanish)	McCabe, D., Honors
Qasem, A., Computer Science	Morey, S., Mathematics
Rahm, D., POSI	Murphy, A., History
Raphael, R., Philosophy	Raphael, R., Philosophy
Renick, O, Health Administration	Rast, W., Biology
Siegenthaler, P., History	Stimmel, T., Psychology
Subervi, F., Mass Comm/Journalism	Ugalde, S., Modern Languages (Spanish)
Warshauer, M., Mathematics	Vaughan, J., Geography
Wilson, N., English	Wilson, S., English

<b>Summer 2013</b>
Beebe, S., Communication Studies (Study Abroad)
Galloway, H., Honors
Hood, J., Honors
McCabe, D. Honors
Martin, C., Modern Languages (Study Abroad)

<b>Honors Statistics:</b>
<b>Fall 2012</b>
<b>New entering freshmen: ~320</b>
<b>Fall honors students enrolled in honors classes: 413 (including 142 in 8 sections of Hon US1100 and 5 Honors Contract students)</b>
<b>Honors courses offered: 23</b>
<b>New honors courses: 6</b>
<b>Departmental honors courses: 6</b>
<b>Honors University Seminar sections: 8</b>
<b>Honors contract courses completed: 5</b>
<b>Fall 2012 graduates in the Honors College: 11</b>

<b>Spring 2013</b>
<b>Spring honors students enrolled in honors classes: 394</b>
<b>Honors courses offered: 25</b>
<b>New honors courses: 3</b>
<b>Departmental honors courses: 5</b>
<b>Honors contract courses completed: 5</b>
<b>Spring 2013 graduates in the Honors College: 29</b>

<b>Summer I &amp; II 2013</b>
<b>Honors courses offered: 3</b>
<b>Honors contracts completed: 2</b>
<b>Summer 2013 graduates in the Honors College: 5</b>

<b>Total graduates in the Honors College: 45</b>
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**Graduation in the Honors College by Student's Home College:**

<b>College</b>	<b>Fall 2012</b>	<b>Spring 2013</b>	<b>Summer 2013</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Applied Arts</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>Business</b>				
<b>Education</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Fine Arts &amp; Comm.</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Health Professions</b>				
<b>Liberal Arts</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>University College</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>

## **Scholarships**

In Spring 2013, for the 2013-14 year, Honors awarded six different scholarships: one \$1000 Camp scholarship, four \$1500 Craddock scholarships, eight \$2500 and five \$1000 MK FitzPatrick Scholarships, 14 \$1000 Honors College Scholarships, and one \$3000 Gregg Scholarship, for a total of 32 scholarships in the amount of \$49,000. We also administer and award up to \$3000 in undergraduate Honors Thesis Grants. <http://www.txstate.edu/honors/prospective/scholarship.html>

## **Student Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF)**

The Student Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) was established in 2011 to promote and provide research opportunities for undergraduate students at Texas State University. SURF aims to stimulate research amongst undergraduate students to help support Texas State in its growth and transformation into a research-based institution. The Honors College has been active in beginning the SURF program at Texas State University and coordinates the application and award process with various entities on campus. The Honors College administers \$3000 annually toward Honors Thesis funding through the SURF program. <http://www.txstate.edu/undergraduateresearch/>

In 2012-2013 sixteen (16) SURF grants were awarded to undergraduates for a total amount of \$12,500. The funds for these grants came from funds provided by the College of Education, College of Health Professions, College of Science, AVP for Research, Freeman Ranch, and the Honors College. Additional support came from donations by the Mind Science Foundation (\$5,000) and the Tri-M Foundation (\$1,000).

**Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal (TxSTUR)** is an on-line journal devoted to multidisciplinary undergraduate research. All articles are peer-reviewed for quality and accuracy by an editorial board, consisting of honors students, and subject-matter experts, who are Texas State faculty members. TxSTUR's inaugural issue was published in spring 2013 as a student's Honors Thesis. <https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/4660>

## **Lampasas Hall**

Along with the Center for International Studies, the Honors College 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 with a gathering place in the Honors Coffee Forum for study, conversation, art receptions and gallery exhibits. In addition to the coffee forum, Honors houses two classrooms, a computer lab, student and faculty offices, a conference room, and a staff and student kitchen for the use of Honors students and non-Honors students alike. The fifth floor upstairs hallway holds a student study abroad exhibit installed by the Center for International Studies. A similar exhibit is displayed in the hallways on the fourth floor.

In addition to classroom use, Lampasas 502B and 501 are used for Honors Thesis Forums, student organization meetings, and special meetings, guest visitors to classes, gatherings, and presentations. Phi Kappa Phi visitors and various special guests, such as Ambassador Tibor Nagy, author Kelsey Timmerman, film maker, David Redmon, the Tibetan Monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery, directors of the Peace Paper Project, and other guests visited the Honors College for lunches, receptions, poetry readings, student performances, and talks.



The space outside of Lampasas in the quad has been used for the Honors freshman retreat welcome and dinner. In the fall semester, invited guests gathered outside of Lampasas for the rededication of the building, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the renovation of the lower floors, which will house faculty offices. In the spring semester the Honors College hosted a luncheon for guest visitor, Jack Watson, who was on campus for the dedication of the Vaquero statue on the quad outside of Lampasas.

The **Honors Coffee Forum** enjoys broad use for classroom presentations, receptions, campus-wide meetings, and as a stopping point for many campus tours. Fall Honors students in the HON 3395O class used the forum to stage improvisation performances. In addition to numerous campus tours from University Seminar classes and local high schools, the coffee forum is a gathering place for visitors to campus such as honors alumni Meagan Henry and Rachel Brody, and playwright Del Shores. In addition, the staff and faculty organized “A Forum for Music,” in the fall followed by “A Forum of Expression” in the spring, providing a weekly venue for student performers and writers. Special events such as Poem in Your Pocket Day and sign-up for Relay for Life were held in the forum as well.

**The Gallery of the Common Experience**, located in the Honors Coffee Forum, provides a visual response to the theme of the Common Experience. Curated by Linda Kelsey-Jones in the fall and Billi London-Gray in the fall and thereafter, and honors student volunteers, the gallery features exhibits throughout the year. The exhibit in the fall, *Spaces, Sounds, and Souls: A Global Odyssey*, based on the Common Experience theme, “A Global Odyssey: Exploring Our Connections to the Changing World,” not only sought to depict these connections through photographs, but also to provide an experience of them—a visceral point of contact with other people and places through video and sound installations. In the spring semester, the exhibit, *Unity, Separation and Cycles: Reflections on a Changing World*, featured mandalas, the documentary film, *Samsara*, the downward force of World War II propaganda, and the upward force of recent popular protests. Gallery curators held a clothing swap and also wrote grants to sponsor workshops for students, including a mandala workshop and a workshop on learning the Indian art form of henna. <http://www.txstate.edu/honors/forum/gallcommonexp.html>

### **The 2012-2013 Common Experience**

#### **A Global Odyssey: Exploring Our Connections with the Changing World**

The Honors College has continued to participate in the Common Experience in important ways. The director of academic development serves as co-chair of the CE Oversight Committee and supervisor of the graphic artist and student coordinator for publicity for Common Experience events. Honors oversees the Gallery of the Common Experience, stages receptions and exhibits complementing the theme, co-sponsors the fall MFA faculty poetry reading in Honors, stages the *Día de los Muertos* celebration, and holds an undergraduate research conference with a keynote speaker related to the theme. In addition to the already mentioned gallery exhibits, special Common Experience events Honors initiated or co-sponsored include the Global Odyssey Film Festival with guest director, David Redmon; Peace Paper Week with guest artists Drew Matott and Margaret Mahan; an Ethiopian coffee ceremony and exhibit with Texas State faculty who traveled to Ethiopia; a Grimm fairy tale reading; and film showings. <http://www.txstate.edu/honors/forum/past.html>

## HONORS COMMITTEES

### **Honors Course Curriculum Committee**

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

- Heather C. Galloway, Honors College
- Diann A. McCabe, Honors College
- John Hood, Honors College
- Audrey McKinney, Philosophy
- Alexandra Scarborough, Geography
- Katie Tritch, Geography
- Bob Fischer, Philosophy
- Elissa Myers, English
- Craig Hanks, Philosophy
- Amanda Jones, Psychology
- Zoha Shafiq, Communication Design
- Daniel Shay, Physics and Theatre
- Colin McIntyre, English

### **Scholarship Committees (incomplete)**

#### **Craddock Scholarships**

- Heather Galloway, Honors College

#### **Gregg Scholarship**

- Heather Galloway, Honors College
- Diann McCabe, Honors College

#### **Fitzpatrick Scholarship**

- Diann McCabe, Honors College
- Roberto Sanchez, Sociology Major

#### **Honors Scholarship Committee**

- Heather Galloway, Honors

### **2012–2013 Scholarship Recipients**

GREGG (\$3000/year)

- Alexandra Warner (POSI, Applied Sociology)

CRADDOCK (\$1500/year)

- Jeffrey Hall
- Krystal Kurtz (English, Spanish)
- Christian Penichet-Paul (History)
- Zoha Shafiq (Communication Design)

FITZPATRICK (\$2500 year)

- Randi Berkovsky (Mass Communications – Public Relations)

- Stephanie Daul (Business)
- Lily Dietz-Kimmons (Geography – Resource and Environmental Studies)
- Christian Duran (Business - Marketing)
- Chandler Franklin (Mathematics)
- Julianna Holloway (English)
- Kayla Holloway (International Studies)
- Clancy Taylor (Geography)

(\$1000/year)

- Matthew Desmond (Undecided)
- Mallory Eastland
- Kimberly Falcon
- Jennifer Klinger (Psychology)
- Lindsay Smith (Music Education)

CAMP (\$1000/year)

- Alexandria Hodge-Ratliff (Education)

HONORS (\$1000/year)

- Jose Dominguez (Biochemistry)
- Samantha Greenleaf (Social Work)
- Lisa Hanna (International Studies)
- Tim Heller (Musical Theatre)
- Emily Hom-Nici (Communication Design)
- Gabriela Prieto (International Relations)
- Josiah Reese (Wildlife Biology)
- Christopher Reyes (Electrical Engineering, Biochemistry)
- Blake Robinson
- Ellen Robinson (Mathematics)
- Austin Thomas (Environmental Studies, English)
- Darja Tomanovic (Jazz Studies)
- Sunny Tompkins (Undecided)

## Honors Student Initiated Faculty and Staff Awards

Honors students show their appreciation to a 2012-13 Honors professor with the Honors Professor of the Year Award, and acknowledge a professor and a staff member from across the university who has been effective in an advisory role. The following faculty and staff received acknowledgement from Honors students:

### Honors Professors of the Year

- Michael Dickinson, Instructional Design Support
- Robert Fischer, Philosophy Department

### Goodbread Faculty Advisor of the Year

- Keith Needham, English Department

### Bishop Staff Advisor of the Year

- Billi London-Gray, Office of University Marketing

<b>Honors Student Achievements and Plans</b>
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- Communication Design major and honors student coordinator and gallery curator, Zoha Shafiq is first runner up student employee of the year
- Biochemistry major Jose Dominguez's research poster, "Assembly of Amyloid Nanostructures from Hybrid Peptide-Polymer Molecules," was featured at the Undergraduate Research Day at the capitol in Austin
- Jose Dominguez also won 1<sup>st</sup> place for undergraduate student posters at a recent National Science Foundation meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Biochemistry major Adam Contreras will attend UC Davis. As part of a NIH Training grant he will work in a lab in molecular biology.
- Art History major Brittany Domer will start an internship in art conservation at the Harry Ransom Center at UT.
- Microbiology major Casey Finch will start medical school at Texas Tech Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in El Paso.
- Anthropology and Geography major Amanda Magera will attend graduate school in History Museum Studies in the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Cooperstown, NY.
- International Relations major Tyler Mahan will attend the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver for an MA in International Studies.
- Anthropology major Gabriela Martinez will attend the University of Hawaii-Manoa for a mater's in Bio archaeology.
- Jonathan Palmer (Economics) learned about the Burma Connection from honors alumna, Meagan Henry's presentation. Through her assistance and a SURF grant, he was able to intern with the organization in the summer of 2013.

## News from Honors alumni

- **Amy Biederman** (History 07) graduated from Tulane University with a MS in International Studies in May. She is a community development fellow at the Broadmoor Development Corporation through AmeriCorps VISTA at the Tulane Center for Public Service. In that position

she will focus on affordable housing and blight reduction in a mixed income neighborhood, doing grant research and writing, community outreach, and collecting data on property conditions. She is happy to be living in a city she loves, doing work she loves.

- **Elliott Brandsma** (English and Art & Design 13) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study Icelandic literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland. Brandsma began his research on Iceland with Honors independent study work and after receiving a SURF Grant, traveled there last summer to work on his thesis, *Sheep, Volcanoes, and International Conflict: Mapping the Twentieth-Century Icelandic Consciousness through Art and Fiction*. In addition, the University of Iceland offered Brandsma a full-ride scholarship/living stipend to study Icelandic as a second language.
- **Rachel Brody** (Communication Studies and Psychology 07) moved to the nation's capitol to become part of the 2007 Teach For America corps after graduating. She attended graduate school at George Mason University with a Teach For America cohort and completed a Masters of Special Education in May 2009. Following graduation, she worked for KIPP DC - a charter school - as an Instructional Specialist for Special Education, teaching 1/3 of the time, coaching teachers 1/3 of the time, and spending the rest of the day facilitating professional development, working on grants, or other random projects related to special education. She went to Lebanon and Estonia with Teach For All (the international umbrella org. that TFA is a part of) to facilitate sessions for their teaching fellows. She spent 6 weeks living in an orphanage on a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, and a couple of weeks in Israel. Brody was the keynote speaker for the 2012 Honors Freshman Retreat.
- **Zachary Christman** (English 09) lives in Lake Jackson where his play, *Children of the Tree* was performed to great acclaim in the spring of 2013. See <http://childrenofthetree.com/> In addition, [his play, \*Aggadot Baya'ar: Folktales in the Forest\* was performed in June at the Dell Jewish Community Campus.](#)
- **James Collins** (International Studies and French 07) visited Honors and spoke with Dr. Hawkins' Intro to LBGBT Studies Honors class. James is a consulting manager at the Lacey Group in Minneapolis. He earned a MBA from the University of Minnesota in 2010.
- **Jodi Flores** (Archeology and Art & Design 07) earned a Ph.D. in Archeology from the University of Exeter in Exeter, England. Her next project is at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona where she will work as a digital curator.
- **Maira Garcia** (Mass Comm/Journalism 07) is a staff editor at The New York Times. Previously she was the social media editor at the Austin American-Statesman. She earned a MA in Mass Communication in 2009 from Texas State.
- **Meagan Henry** (Economics 09) visited in April to make a series of presentations about her humanitarian work in Myanmar. She addressed Honors classes, a Philosophy Dialogue, and College of Business Administration student organizations. Since 2011 she and her husband have worked with the Burma Connection on humanitarian aid projects, orphanages, micro-credit, and community self-sufficiency projects. Henry's work was featured in the exhibit in Alkek Library entitled, *Texas State Global Interconnections*. Honors student Jonathan Palmer (Economics) interned with the Burma Connection during the summer of 2013 because of Meagan Henry's presentation and assistance.

- **Robert Kuykendall** (Computer Science 12) will attend graduate school at University of California, Davis. He was offered a paid research position with the Plug-In Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Research Center.
- **Mandi Laurie** (Psychology 13) presented her Honors Thesis, *I Tell or You Tell: The Intersection between Stigmas and Disclosure*, at the 2013 Southwestern Psychological Association Conference.
- **Silvana Naguib** (Math and English 04) is a staff attorney for Public Defender Service–Mental Health in Washington, DC. She completed a law degree from Northwestern in 2007.
- **Susan Rauch** (English Professional Writing 09) has begun a Ph.D. program in English Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Texas Tech University after earning a Master’s in Literature and MATC from Texas State in 2012.
- **Emily Rothbauer** (English and German 2013) was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach and conduct research in Germany.
- **Michelle Sotolongo** (Art 07) is working on a MA in International Studies while working full-time as an advisor in University College at Texas State. She was named Advisor of the Month in May 2013.
- **Louie Dean Valencia-Garcia** (International Studies/Spanish 07) is completing a Ph.D. in Modern European History at Fordham University in New York, focusing on youth cultures, social movements, and everyday dissent. His area of research began with his Honors Thesis, *De que va lo chili como el argot de las películas de Pedro Almodovar refleja los cambios sociales de la juventud española durante la época post Franquista (1975-1985)*.

#### News from Honors Faculty and Staff

- **Dr. Heather Galloway** taught Physics 3312 and an Honors section of US1100 in the fall of 2012. She oversaw some 40 honors theses during the academic year and served on one dissertation committee. In addition to being dean of the Honors College, she is an active member of the Women in Science and Engineering Conference planning committee at Texas State. She is the advisor to the Honors Student Association and the Terry Scholars. She chaired the planning committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event to recognize the renovation of Lampasas. She organized the spring 2013 Undergraduate Research Conference. She collaborated with the President’s Office on Jack Watson’s visit for the dedication of the Vaquero statue on the quad. She made two presentations on her work in Cambodia, and received funding from the World Bank for her work in Cambodia. She has worked with a curriculum writing team to teach physical science in Cambodia. She traveled to Cambodia in the summer of 2013 to implement the curriculum at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.
- **John Hood, M.F.A.**, taught Honors Screenwriting as the first on-line honors course, American Song, Senior Seminar, and an Honors section of US1100 in the fall of 2012. He supervised five honors theses and two MFA Theses. In addition, he received Equity and Access funding to bring playwright, Del Shores, to campus and to stage Shores’ play, *Sordid Lives* in Wimberley where Hood serves as artistic director for the Wimberley Players. Hood and Galloway worked with faculty to start a chapter of *Phi Kappa Phi* at Texas State and submit an application for a new *Phi Beta Kappa* chapter. He and Diann McCabe presented “The Role of the Newly Established

Honors College in an Emerging Research Institution” at the National Collegiate Honors Council in Boston. He oversees the S.U.R.F. for funding undergraduate students’ research projects and the TXSTUR electronic undergraduate research journal. In the spring semester he taught the Honors courses, The Art of Storytelling and Playwriting, and The Art of Storytelling summer I 2013. He serves on the Executive Research Planning committee and was nominated for the Teaching Award of Honor from Alumni Affairs.

- **Melanie Liddle, Sr. Admin Asst**, supervised some 10 student workers, organized Honors receptions, Meet the Professor Nights in the fall and spring, the fall freshman retreat, and advised the College Democrats in addition to her duties providing support for the 50-60 honors classes offered during the academic year. Melanie was nominated for Employee of the Month in August.
- **Diann McCabe, M.F.A.**, taught Honors Teaching Poetry to Children, and an Honors section of University Seminar in the fall semester, and Senior Seminar in the spring. In addition to being director of academic development for the Honors College, she has been the advisor for Alpha Lambda Delta, served on the advisory board for University Seminar, for Study Abroad, and served on the Multicultural Programs Committee. In addition, she has served as co-chair of the Common Experience and organized visits to campus by the Peace Paper Project, and Honors alumni Rachel Brody and Meagan Henry. She and John Hood presented “The Role of the Newly Established Honors College in an Emerging Research Institution” at the National Collegiate Honors Council in Boston. She received Equity and Access funding for the Peace Paper Project. Diann traveled with Math Works faculty to Indonesia over the winter break making presentations at three universities. An MOU resulted from the University of Makassar. A member of the San Marcos Arts Commission and the board of the Friends of the Fine Arts and Communication, she has also chaired the LBJ-MLK Crossroads Memorial Project in the San Marcos Community since 2008. She spoke at the groundbreaking for the project in January. Diann McCabe was nominated for the Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Award.