

Honors Highlights

Spring 2011

In this Issue

Honors Quick Facts..... 1
 Honors Program Students' Travels 1-2
 "Food for Thought" 3
 Honors Program December Graduates 4
 Honors Students Hone Leadership Skills..... 5
 International Military Student Officers Visit First-Year Honors Students 6
 "I Scream" for International Students Mixer..... 6
 Alumni Brunch 6
 Honors Students Give Back to the Community 7
 Alumni News..... 7
 Holland Symposium Guest Speakers Visit Students 8
 Meet the New Honors Program Advisor 8

Quick Facts

By the end of the fall 2010 semester, there were 146 students in the Honors Program, including six graduating seniors.

Academic majors of Honors Program students:

- Business: 18
- Education/Kinesiology: 15
- Liberal and Fine Arts: 31
- Nursing and Allied Health: 12
- Sciences: 66
- Undeclared: 4

(Ten students are seeking teacher certification.)

Honors Lounge Location: Third floor of the Porter Henderson Library, Room A303

Contact Us: (325) 942-2722

honors@angelo.edu

www.angelo.edu/dept/honors

Honors Program Students' Travels

Students Benefit from Alvin and Patricia New Honors Program Enhancement Fund

Honors Program students **Wills Register** and **Julianne Johnson** traveled to Boston and Kenya, respectively, this summer for experiences they will never forget, thanks to funding provided by Alvin and Patricia New.

Register spent nine weeks in Boston as an intern for Dr. Shivraj Sohur, who is an ASU alumnus, a member of the Harvard University faculty and a research scientist at the Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical School Center for Nervous System Repair. Besides spending time in the laboratory, Register also accompanied Dr. Sohur on his clinical rounds in the hospital. Register is a senior biochemistry major who plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2011.

Johnson, a senior nursing major, participated in a two-week medical mission trip to Eldoret, Kenya, with Open Arms International (OAI), an organization that conducts free clinics and helps feed and clothe the homeless. She worked triage, taking temperatures, manual blood pressures and pulses.

"Through this experience, I have gained an appreciation for all that I have and realize just how much I can live without," she said. "I appreciate medical technology more than before and understand that although our medical system may not be the best it can be, we are incredibly blessed to have such amazing access to healthcare."

Johnson plans to return to Kenya.



Julianne Johnson takes a patient's blood pressure reading at a medical clinic in Kenya.

U.S. Air Force Academy Assembly

Two Honors Program students attended the Air Force Academy Assembly Oct. 19-22 in Colorado Springs. It was the third year the ASU Honors Program has received an invitation to the event. This year's theme was "In Defense of Freedom: Protection of Human Rights at Home and Abroad."

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Clayton Sharum, a senior accounting major, said it was a “great opportunity for students from across the country to provide solid viewpoints on human rights issues that our society is faced with today.” Sophomore history major **Brian Kelly** enjoyed the roundtables, which analyzed human rights violations in various geographic locales and discussed “what the global community can do to protect those rights.”



Clayton Sharum and Brian Kelly attended the 2010 U.S. Air Force Academy Assembly in Colorado Springs.

National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

The National Collegiate Honors Council Conference was held Oct. 20-24 in Kansas City, Mo. Two Honors Program students, **Yolanda Elias** and **Jennifer Sims**, accompanied Dr. Shirley Eoff, Honors Program director, to the conference.

The ASU contingent gave a presentation about the Honors Program’s signature Community Leadership Program, which places top students on community boards in an ad hoc, non-voting capacity, to representatives from honors programs and colleges from around the nation. Several reps requested further information and assistance in establishing similar programs at their own universities.



Yolanda Elias, Dr. Shirley Eoff, and Jennifer Sims attend the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Honors Class Trips

Two Honors Program classes traveled in October to learn about and enjoy some cultural and historical aspects of San Antonio and Fort Worth. Dr. Shirley Eoff’s honors history class received an outstanding presentation at the Institute of Texan Cultures, toured four San Antonio missions and visited the historic San Antonio Riverwalk. One student commented that the Institute of Texan Cultures was “hugely valuable to my knowledge of Texas and captivated my attention, encouraging me to think beyond the surface.” Another student commented that she “loved the experience the trip provided. I learned many new things and got to know other

classmates in ways I otherwise wouldn’t have. It was a very rewarding experience.”

Dr. David Scott’s Great Works in the Arts class traveled to Fort Worth, where they attended a Four Day Weekend comedy/improvisation show in Sundance Square, visited three art museums and the Fort Worth Historic Stockyards, and attended a Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra performance at Bass Hall. One student commented, “Best field trip I have ever been on. It really changed my mind about a lot of art and music in a positive way.”



Honors history students enjoy lunch at the Guadalupe Grill in San Antonio during a trip in October.



Dr. Shirley Eoff’s honors history class visits the Institute of Texan Cultures during a trip to San Antonio in October.

“Food for Thought”

The Honors Program began a new program called “Food for Thought,” which provides a forum for special presentations during lunch hours in the Honors Lounge. Honors Program students were treated to meals and learned about one speaker’s varied career experiences, another speaker’s extensive travels to countries all over the world, and yet another presenter’s research findings in the Galapagos Islands. Students also learned about several study abroad opportunities offered by the ASU Center for International Studies.

On Sept. 2, Wilson Jones fascinated students with accounts of his educational and career experiences, including attending law school and working in the movie, oil and museum industries. More than 20 students attended the luncheon, and one student

commented that “Mr. Jones was an amazing speaker. I was really encouraged by him to be my own person and to find a career that suits me well.”

Later in September, Meghan Pace, ASU’s international student services counselor, gave a presentation on her travels to foreign countries to meet with high school and college students to tell them about Angelo State University. She also provided some travel tips to the students, who found the topic very interesting. One student said Pace “steered me to really looking into travel.”

On Oct. 6, Dr. Christine Muelsch followed up Pace’s program with a presentation about the many study abroad programs being offered this summer for ASU students.

The last program of the semester featured Dr. Robert Dowler, who presented “Following Darwin’s Path: Rodent Research in the Galapagos Islands” on Nov. 11. A professor in the ASU Biology Department, Dowler told the students about his study abroad trip to Europe during the summer of 2009, which happened to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth. Additionally, he provided details of his trips to the Galapagos Islands to research rodents native to the islands that had previously been believed to be extinct.



Honors Program students meet on Monday nights in the Honors Lounge.

Honors Program December Graduates



December 2010 Honors Program graduates are: (L-R) Courtney Snow, J'Lynn Boyd, Jennifer Sims, James Logsdon, Sarah Smith, and Stacy Lee.

Six Honors Program students graduated with High Honors or Highest Honors on Dec. 11, bringing the total of Honors Program alumni to 56.

Honors Students who completed the Option One curriculum track and graduated with Highest Honors:

J'Lynn Boyd received a Bachelor of Science in biology. She was a member of the Honors Student Association and volunteered for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization as a "Big" to a young girl in the San Angelo community. She was also a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority for two years and held the office of recording secretary. Her immediate plans include travel, marriage and attending pharmacy school.

Stacy Lee received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics with a secondary teaching certificate and a minor in special education. She was an Honors Program emissary, an active member of the Honors Student Association and a participant in the Community Leadership Program, serving on the City of San Angelo Youth Council and the Downtown San Angelo Inc. boards. She was a member of the ASU marching band and the Math Association of America, serving as the local chapter's vice president in its first year. She was also a Carr Research Scholar and studied abroad in Europe. She contributed to panels on ASU's Community Leadership Program and Honors Program history project at the Great Plains Honors Council Conference and also attended the

National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Washington, D.C. Her plans for the next year include marriage in June to an ASU and Honors Program alumnus, Jason Strickland, tutoring and substitute teaching for the San Angelo Independent School District, and hopefully landing a full-time position as a secondary math teacher.

Jennifer Sims received a Bachelor of Science in psychology with a minor in special education. She was an Honors Program mentor and was active in the Honors Student Association, holding the position of secretary. She attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, was a member of Pi Gamma Mu and the Psi Chi Honors Psychology Association, and was a student member of the Academic Excellence Committee. She also volunteered with Downtown San Angelo Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters and Rebuilding Together, and was a student board member for the United Way of the Concho Valley. She plans to attend graduate school at ASU to pursue degrees in special education and educational diagnostics with teaching certification. Ultimately, she would like to obtain a doctorate in educational psychology.

Honors Students who completed the Option Two curriculum track and graduated with High Honors:

James Logsdon received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology with minors in criminal justice and history. He was a member of the Honors Student Association and the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, where he held the position of ritual chairman. He

spent last summer studying abroad in Germany and the Czech Republic. He is employed by a local car dealership.

Sarah Smith received a Bachelor of Arts in history with minors in journalism and English. She plans to attend graduate school and work toward her doctorate, specializing in the history of southern music. She was a member of the Honors Student Association and participated in the Community Leadership Program, serving on the United Way of the Concho Valley board. She was a contributor to the Ram Page, a tutor in the Writing Center and a resident assistant in Texan Hall. She attended the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference on national security in Annapolis, Md., and the Great Plains Honors Council Conference in Tulsa, Okla. She was inducted into Alpha Chi honor society and studied abroad in Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Courtney Snow received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology with minors in biology and psychology. She completed the Physical Therapy Priority Acceptance Program, and is waiting to learn if she will be accepted into ASU's Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. She was a Carr Research Scholar and presented her research at the Great Plains Honors Council Conference in Tulsa, Okla. She was a member of both the Kappa Mu Omega kinesiology student organization and the Honors Student Association, and was inducted into Alpha Chi. She also studied abroad in Germany and the Czech Republic.

Honors Students Hone Leadership Skills

Leadership Forum

The Honors Program held its third annual Leadership Forum on Sept. 11, and 40 students volunteered to participate. Valorie Rogers from the John Ben Shepperd Institute at UT-Permian Basin facilitated activities on leadership qualities, collaboration, critical thinking and creative

leadership. One student stated, "I loved this! It was definitely a lot more fun and enjoyable than I expected." Another student commented, "I definitely enjoyed myself and learned some key skills to become a more effective and more efficient leader."



Louis Broome, Josh McGuire, Brooke Smith, and Tara Serio listen to group member input while Brittney Welchon lists essential leadership skills during the annual Honors Program leadership forum.



Alix Dean, Lisa Dees, and Erica Adkins creatively describe leadership characteristics during the annual Honors Program leadership forum.

Community Involvement Fair

On Sept. 30, several community board representatives met and interviewed most of the 25 students who are participating in the Community Leadership Program, which gets students assigned to the various boards as ad hoc, non-voting members. Participating boards include the Adult Literacy Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Children's Advocacy Center, Concho Valley RSVP, Construction Board of Appeals, Downtown San Angelo, Galilee Community Development Corporation, Public Arts Commission, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council, San Angelo Day Nursery, United Way of the Concho Valley, West Texas Training Center and Workforce Solutions of the Concho Valley. Students matched to boards attended a non-profit organization training session on Oct. 11 and began attending board meetings immediately thereafter.



Phil Neighbors, President of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, discusses Chamber activities with freshman Preston Wimberly during the Community Involvement Fair.



Freshman Johnna Schwartz learns about the Children's Advocacy Center Board from Deidre McCoy during the Community Involvement Fair.

International Military Student Officers Visit First-Year Honors Students

For the third year in a row, first-year Honors Program students met with international military student officers from Goodfellow Air Force Base. The officers from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait visited with the students in small groups to compare cultures, discuss current events and learn about military life in other countries. The students enjoyed the opportunity to “hear their stories and

thoughts about America” as well to “meet people with a different experience and view of the world.” Several students expressed interest in meeting with future classes of international officers. Terry Giroux and Joe Dube, Goodfellow AFB program administrators, and Nancy Larson, Honors Program officer, are making plans for a program with both groups of students in the spring.



First-year Honors Program students meet with Goodfellow AFB international military officers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Pakistan.



Dr. Dave Marsh, Biology department, is the featured professor during an Honors Program “Pizza with the Prof” luncheon.

“I Scream” for International Students Mixer

To kick off the new school year, the Honors Program hosted an ice cream social in the Honors Lounge for ASU’s international students. Approximately 10 international students from Nigeria, England, Ireland, France and South Korea attended, and the Honors Program students enjoyed visiting with them and making new friends.

Alumni Brunch

Despite a tornado warning and heavy rainstorm, a few determined Honors Program alumni waded through flooded sidewalks to the Porter Henderson Library to attend the very first Honors Program Alumni Homecoming Lunch on Oct. 23 in the Honors Lounge. Alumni included **Brittany Gilchrest**, **Heather Guthrie**, **Greg Hickey**, **Josh Tindell** and **Kristen Truett Suprobo**. Current Honors Program students and staff members enjoyed catching up with old friends. Kristen also brought her husband, Josh, and her parents, Tom and Sandra Truett, to the luncheon.



Kristen Truett Suprobo enjoyed visiting with current students and alumni from the Honors Program during the Honors Program alumni luncheon.



Josh Tindell and Kristen Truett Suprobo visit during the Honors Program alumni luncheon during Homecoming.

Honors Students Give Back to the Community

One of the greatest contributions members of the Honors Student Association make is giving of their time to help the San Angelo community. The students volunteered a total of 457 hours during the fall semester, and with each hour our students gained a greater perspective of how their time and efforts can impact a community. Honors Program students volunteered 211 hours during Angelo Paintball’s Haunted House, with proceeds from the event donated to the Children’s Miracle Network, which provides equipment and staff training to San Angelo’s Shannon Hospital.

One Honors Program student volunteered a total of 30 hours over four weekends and said, “My time dressed in a ridiculous costume and staring directly into a strobe light was worth it because my small contribution went to an incredible cause.”

Some of the many organizations and events that Honors Program students supported include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Meals for the Elderly, Concho Valley Regional Food Bank, Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding, Sadie’s Rescue, H.E.B. Feast of Sharing, Rebuilding Together, West Texas Down Syndrome Association and San Jacinto Clinic, plus tutoring and mentoring programs at local elementary and junior high schools. In addition, the 19 students in the Honors American History class committed at least 380 hours to researching the city center’s historic buildings and entrepreneurs for Downtown San Angelo Inc.



Honors Program student Chelsea Russell introduces one of Sadie’s Rescue dogs to the public.

Alumni News

Class of 2006

Lori Loomis Boies graduated with a doctorate in cancer biology from the University of Texas at Dallas Southwestern Medical Center. Through her research, she identified two novel populations of adult neural stem cells, long-lived neural stem cells and transient amplifying progenitors. She is now seeking employment in San Antonio, where she lives with her husband Brian, who is a resident physician in anesthesiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

Class of 2007

Leah Lawdermilk Mateo, now married to Travis, is keeping busy with her job at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in San Angelo and working on her family’s ranch.

Nyssah Hamilton Perrine received her M.S. in nursing from the University of South Alabama. After she passes her board exam, she will be a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. She is currently working in San Angelo at the MHMR Child and Adolescent Clinic as an RN.

Kristen Truett Suprobo graduated in August from Texas State University-San Marcos with a Master of Science in chemistry. The title of her thesis was “Polyimides from Cyclic Aliphatic Diamine

Monomer.” She and her husband, Josh, now live in Waco, where she is working for the City of Waco as an environmental inspector.

Class of 2008

Alexandra and Zoë Rogers have completed master’s degrees in global media communications at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Alexandra worked at the Australian Open tennis tournament in January, where she enjoyed getting a behind-the-scenes look at a Grand Slam event.

Brittani Teague will move to Switzerland in March. She will work in Global Recording for about two years at Hilti’s headquarters in Schaan, Liechtenstein.

Class of 2009

Jared Bird paid a visit to ASU and the Honors Program a few days before Thanksgiving. As expected, he is breezing through his second year of medical school at Texas A&M University.

Jessica LaMirand is teaching fourth grade in Austin.

Russell Rogers is a contracting specialist in the Air Force, responsible for \$2 million in contracts. He and new wife, Norelia, are stationed at

Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls.

Jason Strickland is working on his thesis for a master’s degree in biology at Angelo State University and will graduate in May. He is also working as a teaching assistant at ASU while applying to doctoral programs in Texas and Florida.

Class of 2010

Brittany Gilchrest is attending Abilene Christian University and pursuing a degree in speech pathology.

Kaci Pruser’s research article, co-authored with Dr. Nick Flynn and entitled “Acrylamide in Health and Disease,” will be published in the January 2011 issue of *Frontiers of Bioscience*. She is now attending Texas Tech University, where she is pursuing a nursing degree and then hopes to enroll in a nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist program.

Josh Tindell and his wife, Stephanie, are happy to announce a new addition to the Tindell family. Their baby girl, Susannah Rachelle, was born on Oct. 4. Josh is currently enrolled in the ASU graduate program in English.

Holland Symposium Guest Speakers Visit Students

In October, the Honors Program hosted private forums with the keynote speakers for the E. James Holland University Symposium on American Values. The topic of the symposium was "The Role of Social Media in Politics and Education."

Howard Rheingold, an author and professor at Stanford University, and Dr. James Katz,

chair of the Communication Department at Rutgers University and director of the Center for Mobile Communication



Dr. James Katz

Studies, were the guest speakers. They met with the Honors American History and Great Works in the Arts classes in two special forums held in the Honors Lounge. The forums provided Honors Program students the opportunity to ask questions about research on social media in education and politics. Thirty-five Honors Program students,



Howard Rheingold

including the Honors Public Speaking class, also attended a special luncheon with the speakers.

Meet the New Honors Program Advisor

Monica Elrod is the newest addition to the Honors Program staff. A graduate of Lubbock Christian University with a B.A. in humanities, she worked as an admissions recruiter for LCU and as a tour and event



Mrs. Monica Elrod

coordinator for the Texas Rangers baseball team. She grew up in San Angelo and graduated from San Angelo Central High School. Monica and her husband Jake have two children, five-year-old Hunter and eight-month-old Hallie.



Honors Program
ASU Station #10913
San Angelo, TX 96909-0913

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 35
San Angelo, TX