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NEWS BRIEFS

PHP Scholarship Increases
Beginning fall 2007, the Presidential Honors Scholarship will increase to \$7,000 per year.

New HDP Scholarship
For the first time this year, the Honors Degree Program has awarded several scholarships of \$1,000 each. Recipients are: Luisa Cossio, Pre-law major from Glen Rose; Stephanie Kaufman, Psychology major from Benbrook; Aubrey Lindberg, History major from Troy; and Julie Vrazel, an Ag. Communications major from Buckholts.

Development Pizza Party
On October 15th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Development Office will be hosting a pizza party for all Presidential Honors students. The purpose of this party is for students to write letters to the donors that fund their scholarships.

TSU System Symposium
The TSU System Symposium is scheduled for November 2-3, 2007. Honors students working on research projects are encouraged to submit proposals.

Academic Awards Dinner
The Academic Awards Dinner is scheduled for November 8th at 6:00p.m.

A RETURNING AND A NEW FACE: DR. PAT ZELMAN AND DR. DEAN MINIX TO TEACH HONORS COURSES IN THE FALL

For a number of years, Dr. Pat Zelman taught the honors section of History 202. After a hiatus of several years from honors teaching, Dr. Zelman has taken on the honors section of History 201 this semester. Welcome back, Dr. Zelman.



Also, the new dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, Dr. Dean Minix, is teaching the honors section of American Government in the fall, and Dr. Larry Margolis will teach the honors section of Texas government in the spring.



TWO LONG-TIME HONORS FACULTY MEMBERS RETIRING

Dr. Michael Pierce, who taught the honors section of History 201 for many years, retired at the end of the summer. Dr. Pierce served as the department head in the Department of Social Sciences for 11 years, and he started teaching history at Tarleton in 1976. He is the author of *The Most Promising Young Officer: A Life of Ranald Slidell Mackenzie* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1993). Dr. Pierce's distinctive vocabulary will be missed in the classroom and in the hallways of the Humanities Building. Dr. Jeremy Curtoys, who taught the honors section of Political Science

202 for many years, retired at the end of the spring semester of 2007. Dr. Curtoys began teaching political science at Tarleton in 1976.

He was the winner of the Jack and Louise Arthur Excellence in Teaching Award for the spring of 2007. In addition to teaching honors Texas government for many years, Dr. Curtoys also taught the Honors Seminar in the spring of 2005, and he has also served for many years on the Honors Advisory Council. Best wishes to Dr. Curtoys and his wife Linda as they head to Ohio for their retirement.

By: Aileen Blum (English)

Last fall a group of Honors students led by Dr. Punch Shaw and Dr. Clifford visited the Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums in Fort Worth. The trip there was amusingly tense for my driver, and I heard that one of the other carpools got lost on the way. Eventually we all arrived safely at the simple front of the Kimbell, to a scene of rainy dreariness.

My first impression of the Kimbell has been filed away into a section of my brain reserved for things that will forever be puzzling to me. Directly in front of the Kimbell is a twelve-by-eight-foot, three-ton monument by Joan Miró of what he called “A Woman Addressing the Public.” It looked to me like an awesome version of some imaginative child’s Play-Doh creation. I felt a little disadvantaged by my lack of knowledge in the area of art. I had no idea why this towering woman’s anatomy looked so incredibly skewed. Nonetheless, I found that my confusion was a good way to start and had high hopes as we entered the front doors of the Kimbell.

After a brief visit to the gift shop, we got started on our tour. Dr. Punch Shaw took over as head of our group and led us through dozens of dazzling works, giving us brief and insightful explanations of some of the most famous ones. As the tour progressed, we found out that the Kimbell displays a wide spectrum of styles and time periods, not only of painting but also sculpturing and casting. The painted works were the most interesting to me. Some were fascinatingly morbid, such as James Ensor’s “Skeletons Warming Themselves,” the

title of which is self-explanatory. Others were fantastically beautiful, such as François Boucher’s nine-by-six feet “Juno Asking Aeolus to Release the Winds.” Likewise, each piece of art gives off different moods and each visitor can find a favorite amidst the humorous, sad, ironical, religious, mythical, horrifying, and majestic. In fact, some works are so unique, they don’t seem to exude any kind of vibe at all, like Piet Mondrian’s “Abstraction,” which consists of a few vertical and horizontal lines criss-crossing to create dissimilarly sized but congruous rectangles, some



of which are blue, others of which are red. I stood in front of this for a while fancying myself to understand it, but I was faking. I read the caption next to the painting. The work was supposed to be something about equilibrium in a chaotic world. The next stop, after viewing the sights of the Kimbell, was the Amon Carter Art Museum. Upon arrival, I got the impression that the place was well-guarded since, as we all congregated on some steps inside to take group photos, two or three people in uniform emerged stone-faced from the upper-levels to



oversee our activity. However they have good reason to be so dedicated to their job; the Amon Carter is full of great American art. Here, our group trooped upstairs to view romantic depictions of good ol’ American landscape as well as a large room full of historical photography. Downstairs was the highlight of the museum. There, painting after painting, sketch after sketch, and cast after cast were the famous works of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. Of the two, Remington is by far more picturesque but Russell has character. He created comic paintings like “In without Knocking” which features drunk

cowboys riding their horses into a bar. As the tour ended, we were invited to continue looking around, an offer which many took advantage of. The last picture I saw showed the dark scene of a ship being tossed ruthlessly about in the middle of a storm and a dock ironically revealed in the corner, close to us but too far for the ship to see. I don’t remember the name of that painting, but I left this scene with a feeling of appreciation for the arts. I walked out of the museum, a bit more enlightened in heart, and a bit more intellectually aware than when I had first entered that day.

PRESIDENTIAL HONORS STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD

By: Will Mayfield
(Computer Science)

This summer I had the opportunity to study Shakespeare in London. This was an amazing experience. I was able to attend seven different plays, visit Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon outside of London, and on the weekends, I traveled to Amsterdam and Rome. Some of my favorite things about Europe were getting to see *Love's Labor's Lost* at the Globe Theatre, eating gelato in Rome, Amsterdam's pancakes, playing/watching football (soccer), walking around Roman ruins, and so much more. I loved being able to hear the different accents and languages everywhere I went, and seeing all of the old, beautiful architecture. This is definitely an experience that I will never forget.



The picture above is Will at Oxford. The round building in the background is one of the library's reading rooms.



By: Bailey Pearson (English)

This summer I participated in Tarleton's study abroad program in Cuernavaca, Mexico. While I was there I attended the Universidad Internacional where I took classes on Spanish grammar, conversation, and culture. I stayed with a host family where I got to practice my Spanish, eat authentic Mexican food, and really experience the culture of Mexico. On

weekends our group would go on excursions to different towns. We visited the market town of Tepoztlan, the spring fed river at Las Estacas, the ruins and pyramids at Teotihuacan, and spent our last weekend in Acapulco. My Spanish really improved while I was there and I made some great friends! I hope to go back next summer!

By: Rachel Howell (Finance)

I traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico, located about an hour and a half south of Mexico City with about nineteen

other Tarleton students and a professor. We studied Spanish at Universidad Internacional, going to



class for about six hours every day and we traveled to cultural sites such as Taxco, Teotihuacan, and Tepoztlan on weekends.

This picture is a group picture in front of the Palacio de Cortes, an important landmark in downtown Cuernavaca.

FEATURE

NINETEEN NEW PHP STUDENTS THIS YEAR!

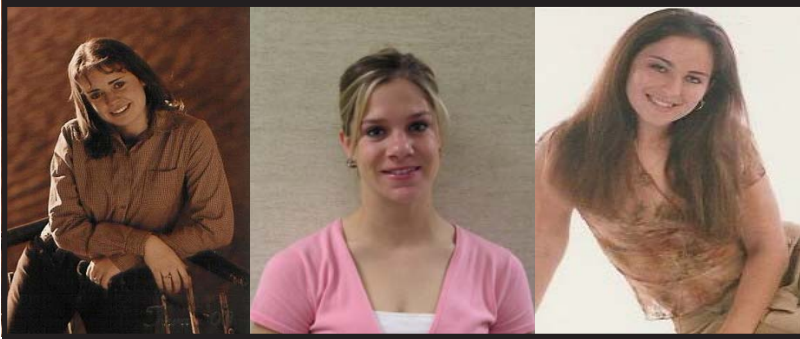
In January, we accepted two new students: Lydia Colvin, a Spanish major from Santo, and Francis Surles, a pre-vet major from Meridian, MS.

This fall we welcome 16 new freshmen and welcome back one graduate, Kimberly Byford of Stephenville, who is returning to Tarleton to complete the pre-med requirements. Among the freshmen, we have three valedictorians, five with an SAT over 1300, and four with a 29 or higher on the ACT. Please take some time to introduce yourself to our new students and welcome them to Tarleton:

Aimee Ayton, Math major from Houston; Kaylie Carrico, Theatre major from The Colony; Glenn Connors from Granbury; Lauren Darling, Education major from Granbury; Jillian Dean, Pre-Med major from Boyd; Lindsay Dorman, Spanish major from Forney; Andrew Fox, Engineering major from Mineral Wells; David Gresham, Pre-Vet major from Cushing; Kimberly Hicks, Biology major from Temple; Douglas Knauth from Georgetown; Brooke Knight, Pre-Law major from Rockwall; Chad Monk, Ag. Industries major from Stephenville; James Peiskee, Engineering Physics major from New London; Daniel Watts, Engineering major from Weatherford; Jessica Woodard, History major from Alvarado; Erica Wotton, Political Science major from Ennis.



CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENTIAL HONORS GRADUATES!



Fall 2006 Graduates:

- Tara Clary
Animal Biology
- Kallen Hayes
Economics/Horticulture
- Megan Williams
Interdisciplinary Studies.

Spring 2007 Graduates:

- Kellie Dodson
Pre-med
- Heather Gamblin
Interdisciplinary Studies
- Matthew Gilbert
Engineering
- Melissa Gilbert
Physician Assistant
- Cassi Jones
Music
- Stephen Myers
Engineering
- Amanda Odiorne
Nursing
- Marlow Robitaille
Biomedical Science
- Hannah Scott
Political Science
- Marie Skaggs
Nursing
- Trevin Vaughn
Management



Summer 2007:

- Ashley Burnham
Animal Science

TWENTY-TWO HONORS STUDENTS EARN 4.0!

Fall 2006: Aileen Blum, English; Rachael Crouch, Pre-med; Jennifer Dalecki, Biology; Kellie Dodson, Animal Science; Jessica Farrar, English; Kim Fehlis, Pre-med; Heather Gamblin, Interdisciplinary Studies; Matthew Gilbert, Engineering; Kallen Hayes, Horticulture; Cassi Jones, Music; Will Mayfield, Computer Science; Amanda

McWhirt, Horticulture; Stephen Myers, Engineering; Bailey Pearson, English; Crystal Sims, English; Kevin Woller, Engineering; Megan Williams, Interdisciplinary Studies; and Lindsay Wright, Journalism. Spring 2007: Sarah Barmore, Horticulture; Aileen Blum, English; Ashley Burnham, Animal Science; Lydia Colvin, Spanish; Rachael

Crouch, Pre-med; Jennifer Dalecki, Biology; Kellie Dodson, Animal Science; Jessica Farrar, English; Heather Gamblin, Interdisciplinary Studies; Matthew Gilbert, Engineering; Cassi Jones, Music; Will Mayfield, Computer Science; Stephen Myers, Engineering; Amanda Vineyard, Exercise & SS; and Lindsay Wright, Journalism.

PRESIDENTIAL HONORS STUDENTS ATTEND CONFERENCES

By: Missy Gilbert (Mathematics)
Amanda Vineyard (Exercise & SS)

This spring, we were given the opportunity to attend the 8th International IACFS Conference on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, and other related illnesses in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



By: Hannah Scott (Political Science)
Kallen Hayes (Eco./Horticulure)

On November 4th, 2006, we took a trip to Fort Collins, Colorado, courtesy of the Presidential Honors Program. We were selected to represent Tarleton at a Young Global Leaders Summit on Oil, Climate Change, and Security. The summit was held at Colorado State University and was hosted by the non-partisan, non-profit organization, Americans for Informed Democracy, which works to promote global consciousness in tomorrow's leaders. The summit began with an introduction from conference organizers that provided information on past conferences and promoted AID's mission and the purpose of this one in particular. One of the goals of AID is to inspire the attendees to promote global consciousness in their own campuses and lives. Throughout the conference we were provided with ideas and tools used to spread AID's message of global awareness, cooperation, and environmentalism.

One of the highlights of the day was the keynote address given by Luke Cartin, Environmental Manager for Vail Resorts, who spoke about Vail's decision to purchase enough wind

The five days consisted of patient and professional conferences where over 27 countries were represented. During the patient portion of the conference, we were able to meet individuals who suffer from these diseases, and also learn the day to day struggles they face. Sessions included health care professionals providing these patients with valuable advice to better their lifestyles, and special interest groups raising awareness about the diseases.

The professional conference drew physicians, clinical researchers, and students who shared an interest in finding causes and cures for the diseases. Professionals from across the world presented studies and

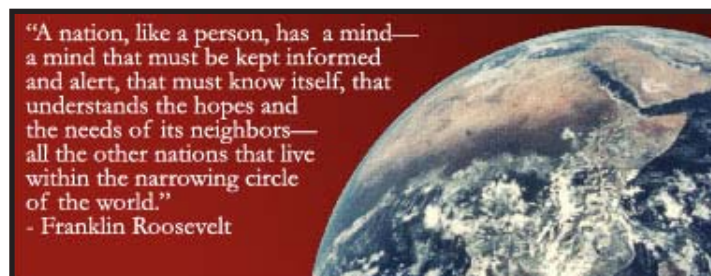


research, and then collaborated on their findings. As a future physician assistant and coach, we found the conference to be very beneficial. When faced with patients and athletes that suffer from these diseases, we will be prepared to care for them. We are very grateful for this opportunity and would recommend this conference to others.

energy credits to totally offset its energy use, making it the only ski resort company in the world 100% powered by wind energy. After a presentation on energy use and conservation, we broke into groups to discuss global energy issues and ideas that could be taken back to our

discussion and closing comments wrapped up the day's activities. We both participated in our group's discussion and were particularly inspired when Mr. Life joined the group to give his input on China's role in today's global environment.

Hannah's favorite part of the day was the opportunity to talk to Mr. Life after the last small group discussion when we discussed the situation in Iraq. Mr. Life gave examples of how this



campuses. We met with a group of about 15 students from schools across Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The afternoon consisted of a panel discussion between 4 scholars on global energy use and production and its influence on national security. The presentation by Richard Life, a retired US Navy overt human intelligence collector was very interesting. His history of promoting democracy in formally communist countries gave him a unique perspective on current global affairs that enriched the discussion. Another small group

situation compared and contrasted to America's past military endeavors. Kallen was especially impressed with Mr. Cartin's presentation on the Vail Resorts and the steps they've taken to implement "green" business policies while increasing profits. She continues today to look into a career in business environmental strategy.

Overall, the summit was interesting and educational for both of us. We are thankful for the opportunity to enrich our college experience with the Young Global Leaders Summit.

WHAT EVERY FRESHMAN SHOULD LEARN

By: Crystal Sims (English)

In the process of coming to college as a freshman, in a new experience, in a new world, the thought of what I was actually going to learn never really entered my head. I mean to say I was expecting to continue my education of the basics: read a few novels, write a few essays, take lots of notes and pass a few tests. I was not prepared for what I actually learned.

In my first semester at Tarleton State I not only had the pleasure of taking a few tests, but also the delight of learning how to think in an original way, of learning to truly understand, and to dwell deeper until I do



understand. Of all my classes last semester one class challenged me to think, interpret, and understand as no other did: Dr. Clifford's infamous freshman seminar. In this freshman honors seminar I had the opportunity to be exposed to different forms of interpreting, and different forms of reasoning. I found it fascinating to not only hear what my peers had to say on a given subject, but to also receive the point of view of various Tarleton professors.

Dr. Dan Malone brought the world and decisions of journalism to our class. We debated, we pondered, and at times we argued his points amongst ourselves. We were encouraged to open our minds to ask questions of him. This opening of our minds led to the progressive skills of all of us. Our world was broadened beyond the reach of our previous experience, our own perspective, and we advanced intellectually.

In addition to Dr. Malone, we were privileged to hear and debate with other professors. All of which I



thank deeply, for myself and for my peers, for showing us something unique, for showing us a new way to look at and interpret the world around us. True, we read Gadamer (a lot), and we had to write a page to be handed in at each class, and taking notes was a good idea during class, and yes we did have a test, but over all I believe what I learned from this reading and writing was nothing compared to what our visiting scholars had to say to us.

I learned how to think in a new light, I learned to understand, and I learned to interpret. My mind is opened to see others, and myself, in a different manner. From Dr. Clifford's seminar I believe I am advanced.

A VISIT TO THE FT. WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

By: Jessica Farrar (English)

On February 25th, the Presidential Honors Program made its annual visit to Fort Worth's world class concert hall, Bass Performance Hall. Instead of an opera, as had been done in years past, we were given the opportunity to attend a performance of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

There was a good turnout for this event; a number of honors students and professors came, and many opted to bring guests. In all, 36 people attended the performance. The symphony performed four pieces: Orchestral Suite from Nais, Bach's

Brandenburg Concerto No. 1, Mozart's Ballet Music from Idomeneo, and Haydn's Symphony No. 85. This was a highly enjoyable

experience and I hope that this year's visit to the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra is the beginning of a new tradition for the honors program.





PHP and HDP members who wish to contribute ideas, stories, or insight to the newsletter, contact Becky Frazier at st_frazier@tarleton.edu.

Aretē

Aretē is the classical Greek word for “excellence” or “virtue.”

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“The good of a human being is activity of the soul in accord with excellence [*aretē*].”
-Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*