

inside
this
issue

John Graves'
Scenic
Riverway



Dr.
Cedar's
Visit



Students
Attend
Conference



Students
Attend
Opera



Honors Programs Celebrate New Office with Pizza



On November 11 & 12, 2006, the Honors Programs invited students, faculty, and administrators to come to the new office and enjoy some pizza. We wanted to celebrate the new office space and let everyone come by and see it. The new office has a conference table that can be used for meetings and two computers for students to use.



Fifteen Students Earn a 4.0!

Fifteen PHP students made a 4.0 for the Fall 2005 semester:

- Cassie Cox-biology
- Jennifer Dalecki-biology
- Adrian Dunson-pre-med
- Jessica Farrar-English
- Kim Fehlis-pre-med
- Mica Hassler-theatre
- Kallen Hayes-horticulture
- Leslie Raddatz-interdisciplinary studies
- Marie Skaggs-nursing
- Heather Smith-music
- Stephanie Trevino-mathematics

December Graduate



Heather Harris, a PHP music major, graduated this fall. Heather graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Congratulations Heather!

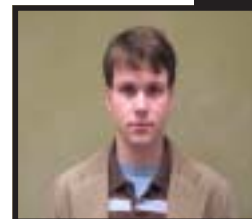
- Trevin Vaughn-management
 - Megan Williams-interdisciplinary studies
 - Katrina Windham-business
 - Lindsay Wright-communications
- Congratulations and keep up the good work!

New Students



Anna Armstrong, a pre-med major from Grapevine.

Bailey Pearson, from Paradise.



Zachary Zimmerman, a pre-med major from Dublin.

Students Attend Conference in San Francisco

*Joseph Gilbert
Engineering*

Four Engineering Physics students in the Presidential Honors Program - Joseph Gilbert, Evan Stenmark, Matthew Gilbert, and Stephen Myers - attended the 13th Foresight Conference on Advanced Nanotechnology in San Francisco this past October. The six-day-long conference was hosted by the Foresight Nanotech Institute, an organization formed to guide nanotechnology research, public policy, and education. Nanotechnology is an emerging technology that deals with materials and electronic devices at the nanometer scale.

The focus of the conference was divided into two sections. The first half was devoted to the applications

and policy issues. The topic of applications included presentations by CEO's of companies such as



Biophan, Nanorex, Lockheed Martin, and more. Panels on nanotech policy included George Atkinson, Science & Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State, and Volker Rieke, Minister-Counselor of Science, Technology,

and Environment for the German Embassy.

The second half of the conference focused on cutting edge nanotechnology research being conducted in national laboratories and universities around the world. These topics included electro-mechanical nanodevices, the design of molecular assemblers, and research into molecular biosensors.

The PHP students had the opportunity to meet face to face with the presenters throughout the week, and, thanks to the Foresight staff, were even given a special tour of the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA. The students found the conference to be very educational and even had time to go sightseeing.

Visiting Scholar, Dr. Marcelle Cedars Visits Campus

*Alyssa Atkins, Pre-med
Marlow Robitaille, Pre-med*

Last fall we provided transportation to and from the airport for Visiting Scholar, Dr. Marcelle Cedars, so we had plenty of opportunity to talk to her about our interests in medical school, family, and our undergraduate work. She gave us some advice on getting into medical school and even told us that we could use her as a contact in the future. Dr. Cedars graduated from the UT Southwestern Medical School, and so was able to tell us about their campus and curriculum.

Upon arrival at Tarleton, we met up with Stephenville's own Dr. Cedars, Marcelle's father. In her first presentation "New Reproductive Technologies: Have

We Gone Too Far?" she detailed her exploration of the ethics involved in her line of medicine, which includes in-vitro fertilization and fetal DNA testing, both

highly controversial areas. She discussed some of her more controversial cases with us to generate conversation on ethical issues in medicine with the audience. The next day, Dr. Cedars gave a presentation to the pre-med

seminar, "So You Want to Be a Doctor: How to Get There from Here." She emphasized the importance of ethical integrity in medicine, and she also talked about preparation for medical school and what it takes to be a good doctor. Dr. Cedar's visit concluded with a lunch and a discussion over ethics in medicine with other PHP pre-meds and, of course, Dr. Clifford.



Presidential Honors Society Brown-Bag Lunch Series

The Presidential Honors Society is sponsoring the Brown Bag Lunch Series again this spring. The lectures will be on Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:50 in the new Multipurpose Room of the Dick Smith Library. To get to the new Multipurpose Room go into the first floor of the library and walk to the very back. Everyone is invited to attend and welcome to bring a lunch with them.

Spring 2006 Brown Bag Schedule

- February 8 Kathryn Jones, Contributing Editor, *Texas Monthly*; adjunct in journalism; author of *Ben Johnson: Hollywood's Real Cowboy*
"The Western Mind Set: What Makes Us Different?"
- February 15 Dr. Leslie Stanley-Stevens, Associate Professor of Sociology
"Expectations of First-Time Parents"
- February 22 Dr. Malcolm Cross, Associate Professor of Political Science;
 Dr. Charles Howard, Associate Professor of Communications
"What Should We Look for in a U. S. Supreme Court Justice?"
- March 1 Cassie Cox, Presidential Honors Scholar, sophomore in biology
"Re-Living John Graves' *Goodbye to a River*"
- March 8 Dr. Mallory Young, Professor of English;
 co-editor of *Chick Lit: The New Woman's Fiction*
"Second-Wave Teachers, Third-Wave Students: The Conflict over Chick Lit"
- March 22 Dr. Bart Odom, adjunct in religion studies and philosophy
"The Bad Faith of Intelligent Design"
- March 29 Mica Hassler, Presidential Honors Scholar, senior in Theatre
"Martians, Mermaids, and Memories: The Magic of the Hip Pocket Theatre"
- April 5 Dr. Craig Clifford, Professor of Philosophy; Director of Honors Programs
"False Idols of the Education Culture"
- April 12 Cassi Jones, Presidential Honors Scholar, senior in piano and voice
"Frédéric Chopin and the G minor Ballad, op. 23"
A talk and a live performance
(Please note the special location: Choir Hall, Fine Arts 107.)
- April 19 Dr. Russell Pfau, Assistant Professor of Biology
"Applications of DNA Technology"
- April 26 Mike Milford, Assistant Professor of Communications
"The Art of Saying Something Without Really Saying Anything at All:"

FEATURE

The Honors Degree Program at Tarleton State University

*A message from Dr. Craig Clifford
Director, Honors Programs*

WHAT IS THE HONORS DEGREE PROGRAM?

The Honors Degree Program offers honors sections of most core curriculum subjects, including math, English, political science, history, chemistry, biology, geology, physics, speech, psychology, and sociology. Students with a 3.0 GPA or permission of the instructor are eligible to take honors courses. Entering freshmen with an 1100 SAT or 24 ACT or a high school class rank in the top quarter are automatically admitted to Honors courses, and others can request permission. Eligible students may take as many or as few honors core courses as they wish. All honors classes are officially designated on the student's permanent transcript. Any student who completes 18 or more hours of honors classes with a minimum 3.0 GPA in honors classes and overall will receive recognition as an Honors Degree Program graduate.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE HONORS DEGREE PROGRAM?

—Honors core courses are generally smaller than regular classes. Honors lecture sections are limited to 25 students; lab sections are even smaller. That means more individual interaction with the instructor and with the other students. Generally speaking, honors lecture sections emphasize discussion rather than formal lectures, essay exams and papers rather than multiple-choice exams, primary sources rather than textbooks. The level of class

discussion naturally tends to be higher as a result of the critical mass of highly motivated students.

—Most honors core courses are taught by senior faculty members with distinguished records. Faculty members who teach honors courses have Ph.D.'s from the University of California, Berkeley; Purdue University; Texas A&M; Indiana University; State University of New York at Buffalo; University of Washington; University of North Texas; Southern Methodist University; University of Kansas; University of Nebraska; University of Washington; University of Iowa; and Ohio State University.

—Participants in the Honors Degree Program have special opportunities for cultural and educational enrichment such as the Visiting Scholars Program, tours of the Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums in Fort Worth, and an annual trip to the Fort Worth Opera.

—Honors courses and extra-curricular activities provide an opportunity for students with high academic ability, motivation, and aspirations to develop friendships and social relations centered around their academic work—in short to become part of an honors community. It's an opportunity to combine the experiences of a small liberal arts college with the resources and diversity of a mid-size comprehensive state university.

—Graduating in an honors program, even having a few honors classes on your transcript, will help you get a good job or get into a good

professional or graduate school. Dr. Charles Howard, our pre-law advisor came back from a national conference for pre-law advisors with the following report: "Law school admissions directors will look favorably on honors classes and honors degrees. In fact, one admissions officer from a very prestigious law school said that graduates of honors programs go into a separate stack for special consideration."

For more information, come by the new honors office in Humanities 370. Or look at the honors website at <http://www.tarleton.edu/~honors> or contact Dr. Craig Clifford, Director, Honors Programs, at 254-968-1926 or honors@tarleton.edu.



Honors Seminar Split into Two Sections

The first- and second-year students in the Presidential Honors Program will no longer be combined for Honors 285, the special three-hour honors seminar each spring. Starting this semester two sections will be offered, one for PHP freshmen and one for sophomores.

This year, the instructor for the freshman section is Kathryn Jones, a contributing editor for *Texas Monthly* and a regular contributor to

The New York Times and numerous newspapers and magazines. Ms. Jones is currently working on a biography, *Ben Johnson: Hollywood's Real Cowboy*, which will be published by the University of Mississippi Press.

The topic for the freshman section is "The American West: Myth and Reality." According to Ms. Jones, this course will look at "how our perceptions of the American West

have been molded by popular culture, mainly through film, art, and literature."

The topic of the sophomore section, taught by Dr. Craig Clifford, is "The Concept of a Liberal Education." Students will look at the origins of the liberal arts tradition in classical Greece, its transformations through history, and its relevance for the contemporary world.

HONORS COURSES OFFERED EACH SEMESTER

FALL SEMESTER

Speech
COMS 101: Fundamentals of Speech

English
ENGL 112: Rhetoric and Composition

History
HIST 201: History of the U.S. I

Political Science
POLS 201: American Government

Geology
GEOL 105: Physical Geology

Biology
BIO 120: General Biology

Physics
PHYS 122: Principles of Physics
(honors by contract)

Math
MATH 120: Calculus I

SPRING SEMESTER

Chemistry
CHEM 1084: College Chemistry II

English
ENGL 2503: Backgrounds of Western Literature

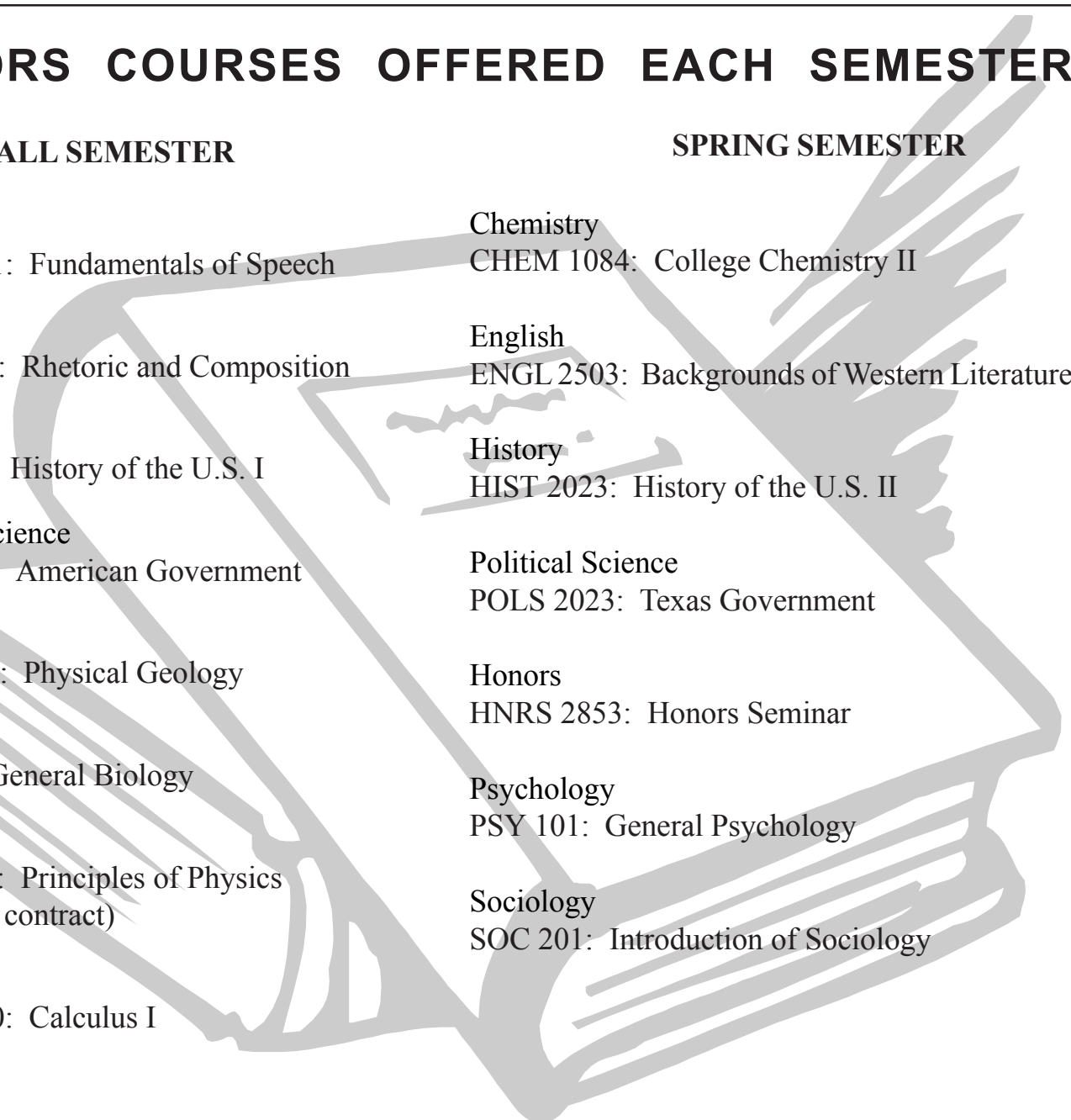
History
HIST 2023: History of the U.S. II

Political Science
POLS 2023: Texas Government

Honors
HNRS 2853: Honors Seminar

Psychology
PSY 101: General Psychology

Sociology
SOC 201: Introduction of Sociology



Cassie Cox
Biology

Dr. Curtoys' 2005 seminar, "Environmental Conundrums," has had a lasting impression on the students. Kathryn Jones, a journalist for many Texas magazines, quickly noticed these life lessons learned. With the approach of John Graves' 45th anniversary of the publishing of *Goodbye to a River* and his journey down the Brazos, she decided to organize a memorial canoe trip with several Tarleton PHP students



and affiliates. Among the adventurers were Dr. Curtoys and his wife, Cassie Cox and cousin, Rachel Howell and roommate, Jennifer Dalecki, Garrett Rosser and friend, photographer Courtney Perry, Journalist Kathryn Jones and her husband. The purpose of this trip was to record the leisure, work, and beauty that the adventurers would encounter on the Brazos River. On this trip we stumbled upon many challenges that included capsizing, cliff jumping, tent building, and sleeping on rocks. Despite the challenges, all of us who canoed down the Brazos will forever hold the river in a high place in our hearts. Its beauty and serenity is of a type that can only be seen through the experience and cannot be forgotten.

Following our return, Kathryn

Jones wrote an article for *Texas Highways* where she depicts the course of events on the river and relates them to the future of the Brazos, which is ultimately in the hands of our generation. All of us that went on the canoe trip realize



this and hope others do as well. Will we suck the river dryer than it already is or will we try to preserve it so that our children and grandchildren can see it? It is up to us to decide. Kathryn Jones' article, "Hello to a River," appears in the March 2006 issue of *Texas Highways*.

15th Annual Academic Awards Dinner



The Academic Awards Dinner was held on November 4, 2005 in the TSC Ballrooms. Dr. Javier Garza was the guest speaker and Leslie Raddatz, senior in Interdisciplinary Studies, was the student speaker.



PHP Students Attend La Traviata

Joni Clay
Music

On the 13th of November, 2005, several Presidential Honors and other Tarleton students went to see Guiseppe Verdi's opera, *La Traviata*, in Ft. Worth at the Bass Performance Hall.



Before the show, people were able to listen to a pre-

opera synopsis and additional insight given by Dr. Punch Shaw.

The opera, set at the time of Louis XVI in and around Paris, is a four-act production about the love

and trials facing Violetta Valery, a prostitute with tuberculosis, and Alfredo Germont. Their love is established in Act I, at a party hosted by Violetta. There is also a foreshadowing of conflict between Alfredo and Violetta's current lover, Baron Dauphol. Act II opens in the country, where Violetta and Alfredo are living happily and in love. However, financial troubles threaten to put an end to their bliss. Also, Alfredo's father appears and makes known his opposition to his son's relationship with Violetta. Violetta, in an attempt to do what is best for everyone involved, resolves to leave Alfredo, and returns to her former lover.

Act III reveals to

the audience the severe state of Violetta's health. Alfredo's father, seeing this, decides to contact his son and tell him the truth about the situation. Finally, Alfredo makes his way back to Violetta. Although she is overcome with joy, she dies shortly after Alfredo's return in Act IV.

The performance of *La Traviata* at Bass Hall was one with demanding strength and power.



PHP Students Get Tour of Art Museums

Rebecca Garrett
Nursing

Last October, several Presidential Honors students, along with students from the Art History class had the opportunity to tour Fort Worth's Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums with Dr. Punch Shaw as a personal tour guide. He explained the history of



Charles Russell. He discussed how each artist had played an important role in forming the American image of the west. After examining pieces by other western painters, several students chose to see the Richard Avedon exhibit, "In the American West."



many masterpieces in the Kimbell including a Rembrandt, Rubens, Monet, and a Picasso. After lunch, Dr. Shaw donned his cowboy hat and boots to show us around the Amon Carter, which featured more than one hundred sculptures and paintings by the famous cowboy artists Frederic Remington and



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PHP and HDP members who wish to contribute ideas, stories, or insight to the newsletter, contact Jessica Farrar at JessF34@aol.com.

Aretē

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

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The opinions expressed within are those of the individual writers, not necessarily those of *Aretē* or of Tarleton State University.

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