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Scholars on
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Honors Program
celebrates 20th
Anniversary



Honors Students
Attend Opera



News Briefs

PHP GRADS ACCEPTED TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Chase Kincannon, who graduated in May of 2004 in history, started Baylor Law School. Amanda Baulch, who graduated in December in English, started the Ph.D. program in English at North Texas this fall. May biology graduate Aeliya Jafri has been accepted to the University of Houston School of Pharmacy, and Peggy Neill, who graduated in May in geology, started the master's program in geology at the University of Texas this fall.

SCHOLARSHIP INCREASES

This fall, the scholarship amount for the Presidential Honors Program has increased from \$5,500 to \$6,000.

NEW HONORS COURSES

Four new honors core courses are being offered for the fall and spring semesters of this year. Currently, Dr. Bowen Brawner is teaching an honors section of Calculus I, and Dr. Hussain Jafri is teaching an honors section of Economics 201. In the spring, Dr. Newby will teach an honors sections of Psychology 101 and Dr. Stanley-Stevens will teach an honors section of Sociology 201.

PROGRAM ACCEPTS NINETEEN NEW STUDENTS



This fall, nineteen freshmen entered the Presidential Honors Program. Among them are three valedictorians and one salutatorian. These students have an average SAT score of 1308, and ACT score of 28. Twelve scored 1310 or higher on the SAT.

The new students are Ryan Basham, a math major from Flower Mound; Aileen Blum, an English major from Copperas Cove; Megan Chrismon, an interdisciplinary studies major from Marble Falls; Joni Clay, a music major from Colorado City; Laura Clendennen, an education major from Marble Falls; Kimberly Fehlis, a pre-med major from Round Rock; Rebecca Garrett, a

nursing major from Early; Jedidiah Gohlke, a math major from Gatesville; Seth Griffin, an English major from Early; Courtney King, a nursing major from Cleburne; Laura Long, an accounting major from Utopia; Will Mayfield, a computer science major from Stephenville; Jessica Moorhouse from Benjamin; Holly Neill, a biology major from Glen Rose; Hillary Safian, an accounting major from Fort Worth; Chelsea Saunders, a math major from Fort Worth; Kelsey White, an education major from Arlington; Katrina Windham, a business major from Leander; and Kevin Woller, an engineering physics major from Decatur.

NEWS

HONORS PROGRAMS GETS A NEW OFFICE

The Honors Programs moved into a new office just before the fall semester began. We are now located in room 370 of the Humanities Building. We have also hired a student worker, Jessica Farrar, to help around the office. Soon, we will have some computers available for student use.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Fall 2004

Julie Allen, Nursing

Outstanding Graduate

Amanda Baulch, English

Outstanding Graduate

Sheena Lewis, Criminal Justice

Outstanding Graduate

Tiffany Nations, Biology

Kelli Wakefield, GeoScience

Amanda Baulch, was chosen to give the commencement address.

Spring 2005

Peggy Neill, Geoscience

Outstanding Graduate

Adelaide Odoteye, Accounting

Outstanding Graduate

Eileen Stock, Mathematics

Outstanding Graduate

Erika Dean, Mathematics

Aeliya Jafri, Biology

Adelaide Odoteye was chosen to give the commencement address.



PHP STUDENTS ATTEND OPERA

Tom Hancock
Engineering

Last November, the Presidential Honors Program provided us the opportunity to see *Salome*, an opera scored by German composer Richard Strauss, performed at Bass Hall in Fort Worth. Before the performance began, we had the privilege of taking a backstage tour of Bass Hall. The tour included an overview of the props and a close-up look at the set, information about its design, and the chance to hear the singers warm up behind stage. Afterward, we listened to a lecture given by Dr. Punch Shaw, which was extremely informative. He discussed the origin of the story of Salome in the Bible, the



composer, and the authorship of the play on which the opera is based.

14th ANNUAL ACADEMIC AWARDS BANQUET



The Evening Speaker was Dr. Barry Price, Professor, Department of Social Sciences



The Message from the Scholars was presented by Ms. Adelaide Odoteye



PRESIDENTIAL HONORS PROGRAM 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 20th Anniversary Celebration for the Presidential Honors Program took place on April 8th and 9th of 2005. Friday evening Dr. Clifford and Dr. Young hosted a dinner for early-arriving guests. Saturday morning's program included a presentation by Dr. Clifford on the history, current state, and future of PHP, as well as remarks by three graduates from three different generations of the program: Scott Walker, who entered the program in 1985 and graduated summa cum laude in music with a minor in English in

May 1989; Noble Acuff, who entered the program in 1990 and graduated summa cum laude in English with a minor in philosophy in December 1992; and Kristina Guess, who entered the program in 2000 and graduated summa cum laude in political science with minors in philosophy and history in May 2004. (Texts of all of the presentations are available on the honors website.) At noon graduates, current students, honors faculty, and honors administrators were able to visit informally at a lunch reception hosted by Dr. McCabe and Dr. Peer.



Noble Acuff

Graduated summa cum laude in English with a minor in philosophy in December 1992

“While it doesn’t seem like it has been that long since I was an undergraduate at TSU, it dawned on me while I was driving to Stephenville that this year’s freshmen were only five years old when I was a student!”

“This is precisely why a liberal arts education is so important. Aside from all of the less directly applicable benefits, such as opening your mind to a broader world and developing an appreciation for some of the subtler aspects of life, the four years we spend in college are often the last opportunity we have to develop many of these critical thinking abilities that are so vital throughout the rest of our lives.”



Krissy Guess

Graduated summa cum laude in political science with minors in philosophy and history in May 2004

“ . . . whenever my boss asked if I could do or get something done I said of course and then proceeded to first freak out and then figure it out. How does this relate to honors classes, you are probably asking. Well, unlike many classes, when you are in an honors class they don’t usually hold your hand and tell you point by point how to do something. They leave a lot out there for you to figure out on your own. There is a bigger possibility for failure but also a much larger possibility of something truly unique. . . Thank you to all the Honors teachers that provided me with the ability to figure things out—be it Plato or accounting.”



Craig Clifford

Director, Honors Programs

“In a democratic society, one of the functions of a good educational institution is to identify talented people who have something special to offer to their society, and to figure out a way to challenge them, to help them develop that talent to its fullest potential and to develop it in a way that will contribute in a significant way.”



Scott Walker

Graduated summa cum laude in music with a minor in English in May 1989

“It’s great to be back at Tarleton! I’m sure for the older PHP people like me it’s a bit surreal, but at least we’re still slightly younger than the Honors Faculty.”

FEATURE

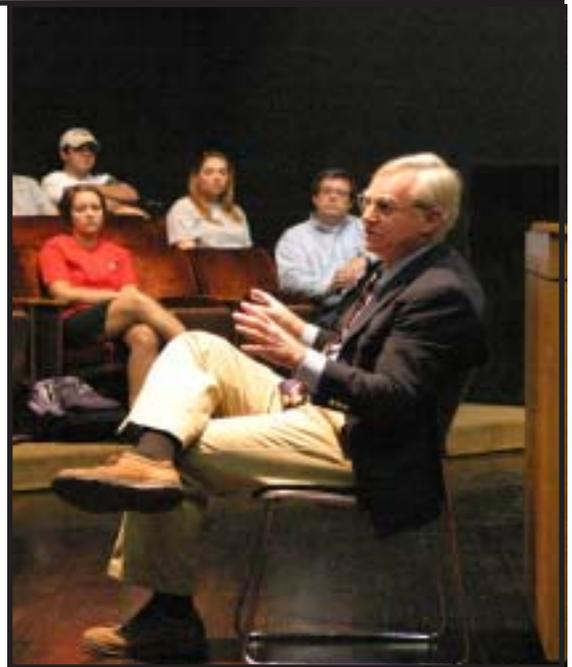
MR. TOMMY DENTON VISITS CAMPUS

Hanna Scott
Political Science

Mr. Tommy Denton, an award-winning journalist and a Presidential Honors Visiting Scholar, came to Tarleton State University on October 21 and 22, 2004 to give a lecture on journalistic ethics. Mr. Denton also gave presentations in several communications classes, as well as attending a lunch with several Presidential Honors students.

Mr. Denton's lecture sought to examine some of the changes that have taken place in the press since our nation's founding, and he placed

a special emphasis on the dramatic changes that have occurred in the last fifty years. After giving a brief history of the various roles the press has played over the years, and pointing out its guaranteed protection under the U.S. Constitution. Mr. Denton proceeded to expound on some of the challenges facing the press in the United States today. After his presentation, Mr. Denton opened up the floor for questions.



TWO VISITING SCHOLARS FROM CROATIA VISIT CAMPUS

PHP Visiting Scholars for Language and Cultural Studies, Maria Giovanna Domenichini and George Oduor Oloo, spent the week of September 12 through 16, 2005 on the Tarleton campus. Their keynote addresses on "Language and Culture in Africa" were presented in the Fine Arts Center Workshop Theater on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Oloo talked about language policy in Africa, including a sketch of the historical and present roles of

indigenous African languages and European languages in Africa. Ms. Domenichini talked about the controversy among African writers about whether to write in indigenous languages or colonial European languages, and she drew some parallels with the situation for Irish writers. Other events included a discussion by Ms. Domenichini of translation as a form of interpretation in the Freshman Honors Seminar; a discussion by Ms. Domenichini and Mr. Oloo of language study with the foreign language faculty and an upper level Spanish class; a luncheon with representatives of the Office of International Academic Affairs to discuss possibilities for exchange programs and study abroad; and a workshop on Italian diction conducted by Ms. Domenichini with several voice majors who are working on arias from Italian operas. Ms. Domenichini currently teaches Italian at the University of Rijeka in Pula, Croatia. Previous appointments as an Italian lecturer include the



University of Nairobi in Kenya, Trinity College at the University of Dublin in Ireland, and the University of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. Mr. Oloo, currently on leave from the University of Nairobi, specializes on African languages, with an emphasis on Kiswahili and Luo. His master's thesis, *Comparative Study of Western Nilotic Languages*, was published in *Occasional Papers in Language and Linguistics*, Vol. I, 41-54 (2001).

PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER FROM ITALY GIVES TALKS

During the week of February 7-11, Prof. Mariachiara Russo, Visiting Scholar for Language and Cultural Studies, gave a series of talks; met with the foreign language faculty as well as representatives of International Academic Programs, and made guest appearances in a number of classes. Russo is an associate professor at the Advanced School of Modern Languages for Interpreters and Translators (Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori) in Forlì, Italy, a branch of the University of Bologna. She works in a department that trains students to become interpreters working in Spanish and Italian. In one of her talks, Prof. Russo

introduced the audience to Urbino, one of the centers of the Italian Renaissance that is not well known outside of Italy, but often referred to in Italy as the *ideale città*, the “ideal city.” In her keynote address, she gave an overview of the different kinds of interpreting. Interpreters, she explained, have to act as mediators, not just between different languages, but between different cultures. Prof. Russo also met with representatives of the Tarleton Office of International Academic Programs to discuss possibilities for exchange programs



involving Tarleton and her university, and she also gave a presentation during a luncheon with the foreign language faculty and some of the Spanish majors about how to become an interpreter.

NOT SAYING GOODBYE JUST YET

Cassie Cox
Biology

“Lakes and levees, dams and locks; they put that river in a box.” The words of Don Henley echo through your mind as you are drifting down the cloudy greenish-blue of the Brazos River. Kathryn Jones first introduced the song “Goodbye to a River,” by Don Henley, during her visit to our Environmental Conundrums Honors Seminar in spring 2005. Kathryn Jones is an accomplished journalist who has written for many magazines, including *Texas Monthly*. She is currently teaching a journalism class at Tarleton State University and working on a piece for *Texas Highways* in honor of the 45th anniversary of John Graves’ *Goodbye to a River*. She participated in a canoe trip with several PHP students on October 15 and 16, and she will write an article about how

the Graves’ book still inspires so many people, even forty-five years after he himself drifted down the Brazos. Mrs. Jones’ charisma and insight made me excited about nature and getting back what is being taken away, but her main purpose was to shed some light on the issues discussed in John Graves’ book. She spoke of her childhood memories of rivers, inspired us to think of our personal river memories, and showed how the river could be viewed as a “metaphor for life.” Graves never chastises the readers or “city folk” for not caring for the river in his book. He simply exposes the river as a beautiful thing that has had some not-so-beautiful things added to it. Jones also talked about how Graves’ book was a non-aggressive, non-political way of inspiring people to

slow and decrease dam building on the Brazos. Ms. Jones helped us to understand how Graves’ intentions of promoting a higher appreciation for the natural state of the river was more of a lesson of showing the serenity of the river and not directly forcing his views. Not only did she make us realize what the book was saying and appreciate it more, but she showed how Graves’ book was the picture of a “moment in time before it vanished.”



NEWS

PHP SCHOLAR ATTENDS NATIONAL MEETING

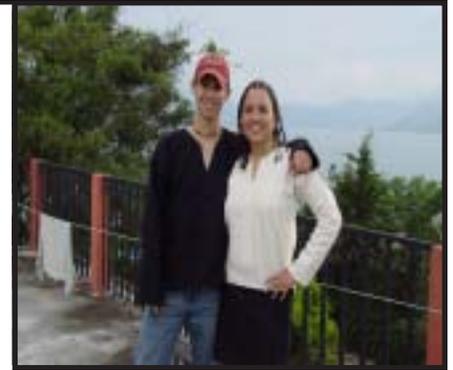


Marlow Robitaille, PHP pre-med student, attended the national meeting of the American Medical Student Association over spring break. The Convention was held in Washington, D.C. Last year, Marlow was instrumental in starting a Tarleton chapter of the Pre-Med American Medical Student Association, and she is the current president of the Tarleton chapter.

TWO PHP STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD

Alyssa Adkins
Pre-Med

This July, Trevin Vaughn and I went to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. It was an incredible experience, and we got six hours of Spanish credit for it too. While there, we visited various villages and cities, and attended Spanish classes during the week. Our classes were solely in Spanish, and the families that we stayed with did not speak much English. Therefore we were constantly speaking Spanish. Everyone had their own teacher, so classes were designed to fit our personal needs. In the afternoons, we often had mini cultural excursions. On these, we would visit little villages and learn about their religious and economic past. Sometimes at night there were activities as well: salsa lessons,



meringue lessons, and seminars. On the weekends, we would travel farther away to more tourist locations. The first weekend, we went to Antigua. The following weekend, we went to Panajachel, a small village off of Lake Aticlan. We had such a great time that a group of us returned the following weekend.

This was a wonderful and educational experience for both of us. Personally, I hope to possibly return next summer.

DR. SHAW GIVES LECTURE TO FRESHMAN HONORS SEMINAR

“How did we get from Frederick Remington and Charles Russell’s paintings of the American West to Richard Avedon’s photographs?” Dr. Punch Shaw, PHP Visiting Scholar, began his recent presentation to the Freshman Honors Seminar. Fort Worth has played a major role in the ongoing interpretation of the American West, he explained, especially the Amon Carter Museum, which houses one of the major collections of American art in the country, including significant collections of Remington’s and Russell’s paintings and sculptures. And 20 years ago the Amon Carter commissioned New York fashion photographer Richard Avedon to do a series of photographs of the American West, which defenders credit with replacing the

“romanticized” version of the American West with something more realistic and critics see as driven by a stereotype of the West that is even more perverted than the older romanticized one.

Dr. Shaw drew parallels with the evolving representations of the American West in film, in the “western.” Drawing from genre criticism, he explained the natural evolution of a genre through four stages: the primitive, classic, revisionist, and parodic. For example, *The Great Train Robbery* would be a primitive western, early John Ford films would be the classics, John Ford’s *The Searchers* would be revisionist, and Mel Brook’s *Blazing Saddles* would be a parody.

As a follow-up to this lecture, on October 22 Dr. Shaw will conduct

a tour of the Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums in Fort Worth for members of the Presidential Honors Program and students enrolled in Ms. Seelig’s art history class. Students will have an opportunity then to compare Remington’s and Russell’s paintings with Avedon’s photographs which are currently on exhibit in the Amon Carter to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their creation.



PHP STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EXCITING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Joseph Gilbert was an electrical engineering intern for Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Dallas. Gulfstream designs and builds business aircrafts for customers worldwide. Joseph's primary project was performing a Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) for the new Gulfstream G150 aircraft that will begin full production early next year. "Overall it was a great experience that provided me with first hand knowledge of engineering in the corporate environment," says Joseph. Gulfstream has already offered him a future internship and job.

Stephen Meyers was a participant in the 2005 Physics Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) at the University of North Texas. He was assigned to the nanoindentation lab and was given a project to do research on. Stephen says, "It was a great experience; I had help from the grad students and faculty and was given the opportunity to work with top of the line research equipment." At the end of the summer, Stephen presented his research to the rest of the participants and professors. He will also be presenting his findings at the Texas Section of the APS-AAPT-SPS at the University of Houston on October 20-22.

Evan Stenmark took part in a Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) at the University of North Texas with Dr. Michael Kaufman and his graduate students. They researched high temperature shape memory alloys. Using various analytic techniques they identified a new metallic phase that has orthorhombic structure with the space group Cmc₂m.

Mica Hassler interned at the Hip Pocket Theatre, the only outdoor theatre in Fort Worth. During the day, she served as an office manager/marketing intern, and at night assistant stage manager, ran lights, sound, and acted.

Matthew Gilbert interned for Temple-Inland, a Fortune 500 company that manufactures various building products, and is the third largest producer of corrugated packaging in North America. Additionally, they operate Gauranty Bank and handle mortgage lending, insurance services, and real estate transactions. Matthew worked with the Applied Research Center (ARC) group. His time was typically divided between running tests in the lab, interpreting data, and writing reports based upon his results.

Tara Clary spent two and a half weeks traveling across Costa Rica on a dental/medical mission team with seventy other members of Arlington Baptist Church. During the first week, they conducted two Vacation Bible Schools, built a church and a parsonage, and saw nearly 1,000 patients free of charge. Tara was able to do a lot of chair-side dental assisting and even had the opportunity to perform an extraction. Throughout the second week, Tara had her own hygiene chair and saw approximately twenty patients daily.

Maribeth Miller spent her entire summer working as a counselor at Star Ranch, a registered treatment facility for children with special needs. She worked specifically with kids ranging from ages seven to fourteen who have learning disabilities, mild mental retardation, physical disabilities, and emotional disorders.

Kallen Hayes did an internship with Franz Witte Landscape Contracting in Boise, Idaho. She worked in the nursery, assisted the landscape architects, and did wholesale/retail sales. "A highlight of the summer was helping to design and plant the landscaping at the cabin where President Bush stayed for a weekend!" says Kallen.

PHP SCHOLAR SPENDS THE SUMMER AS AN INTERN WITH FOX NEWS

Hannah Scott
Political Science

This past summer, I spent six weeks working as an intern for Fox New in New York City. This was a great experience, as I was allowed to meet and work with many professionals in the field of

broadcast journalism. I was assigned to the specials unit, where myself and three other interns from around the world helped compile and organize footage for several upcoming special documentaries.

Another great aspect of my internship were the seminars that were given by various anchors,

producers, and writers. These seminars allowed me to talk to the broadcast professionals at Fox in a small setting. I definitely learned a lot, and the willingness of Fox's employees to work with and talk to the interns greatly impressed me. In all, my internship was a great experience!



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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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 22: Tour of Kimbell and Amon Carter art museums with Dr. Shaw
- Nov. 4: Academic Awards Dinner and PHP group photo (5:30-8:00)
- Nov. 10-11: Visiting Scholar Dr. Marcelle Cedars on reproductive medicine and liberal education as preparation for professional study and practice
- Nov. 10: PHP early registration date (9:00-2:00)
- Nov. 13: *La Traviata* by Verdi at Fort Worth Opera, Bass Hall
- Dec. 17: Fall graduation

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