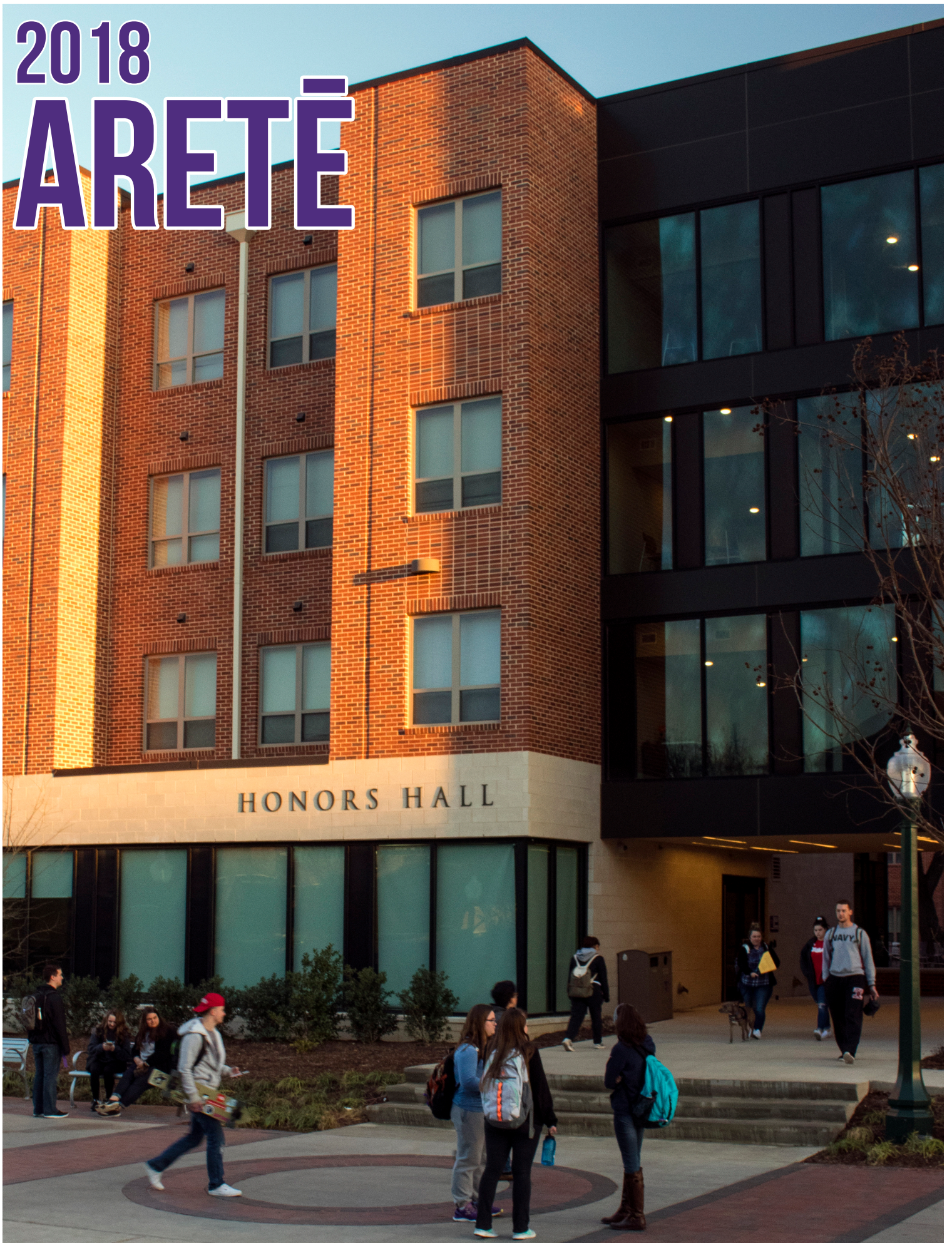


2018 ARETÈ





A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings alumni and friends of the Honors College,

As we wind down the 2017-2018 academic year and prepare for our study abroad program in Urbino, Italy, I have to say that I'm excited about all of the great things that are happening in the Honors College. We are now in our second year in a wonderful new Honors Hall, which houses around 440 honors students as well as the offices of the Honors College. The hall also has great meeting spaces for classes, meetings, luncheons, and other social events—a meeting room that can be divided into two honors classrooms, a spectacular lobby with floor to ceiling built-in bookcases, and a lovely courtyard.

Fall enrollment in the Honors College reached an all-time high even though we raised our admission standards for the Honors Degree Program, the larger of the two programs under the umbrella of the Honors College. During Honors Week we will hand out honors stoles to the largest number of spring graduates ever.

Although the heart of the Honors College consists of an honors curriculum—special honors sections of core classes and special honors seminars—honors students participated in a number of cultural enrichment events designed to broaden their perspective on the world. The third annual Honors College Alumni Day took place in October. Fifty three students attended the symphony in October and 34 honors students will leave on June 2 for a month-long study abroad program in Urbino, Italy for the fifth year of this program. Generous contributions by donors have reduced the cost of that program to \$2,600.

Speaking of donors, we had our fourth annual Night in Urbino fundraiser dinner in September, an event that brings together donors and students who have studied in Italy over a multi-course meal typical of the Marche region of Italy. On April 13, we will host our inaugural Executive Director's Circle luncheon featuring keynote speakers Amber and Nathan Lesley, Fort Worth medical doctors who met while they were students in the Presidential Honors Program.

Thank you for your support of the Honors College, a shining center of academic excellence.

Best regards,

Dr. Craig Clifford

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HONORS BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 5 MAJORS

- (18%) INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
- (16%) NURSING/PRE-NURSING
- (10%) BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE
- (9%) ANIMAL SCIENCE
- (6%) KINESIOLOGY

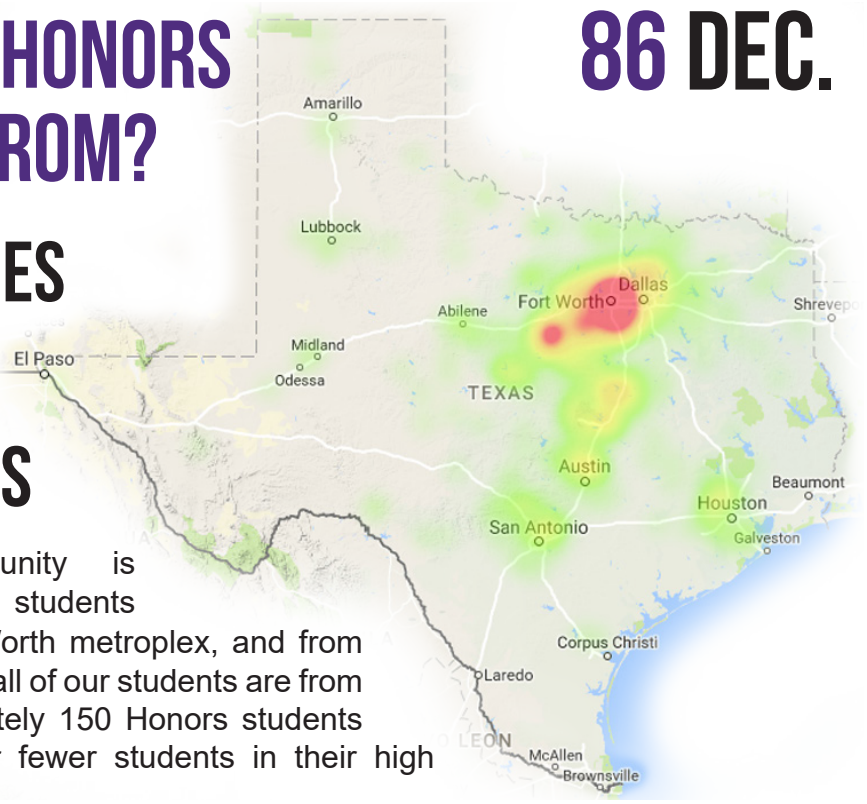
BY PROGRAM:

- 253 UPPER-LEVEL HONORS
- 614 HONORS CORE
- 59 PRESIDENTIAL HONORS
- 926 TOTAL STUDENTS

WHERE ARE HONORS STUDENTS FROM?

- 102 COUNTIES
- 12 STATES
- 4 COUNTRIES

Our Honors community is primarily made up of students from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, and from major Texas cities. Not all of our students are from large cities; approximately 150 Honors students graduated with 100 or fewer students in their high school graduating class.



To graduate in Honors Core, students must complete 15 hours of Honors, but the average student completes

20 HOURS

2018 GRADUATES:

- 146 MAY
- 3 AUG.
- 86 DEC.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

ADAPTED FROM FACEBOOK "WHO'S WHO" SERIES BY HANNAH MABRY (COMMUNICATIONS/SPANISH)

Giselle Mosqueda

Giselle Mosqueda, a nursing major, is a campus tour guide, an Honors student, and an anatomy supplemental instructor. Before she became a tour guide, she was an Honors Campus in Action (CIA) guide. She says she had not found something on campus she was excited being part of, but when she read the description of what her role could be, she was applied. "Coming back this year, I've seen several of the students I had for CIA days. It gets me super excited and happy to know that I might've been responsible for at least a tiny bit of their decision on attending Tarleton."

While in high school, a friend told her about the Honors College, and Giselle applied without even knowing the benefits. She says that "once I got here I realized I had made a good choice." Giselle hopes to work as a Registered Nurse for at least two years before she continues her education to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. During high school, she took her little brother to his medical appointments and he had a nurse practitioner. It appealed to her because it's an opportunity in her field of interest, where she can enter the field more quickly.



Luis Zamora

Whether it's in Houston helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, teaching English in Bulgaria, or translating for Spanish families with the American Red Cross in Austin, Luis Zamora is serving others. He also manages to be an active Honors student while majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish. He grew up near Ft. Hood, which played part in his decision to join the JROTC (Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps) in high school and the National Guard and ROTC in college. Before TSU, Luis went into the army to complete 14 weeks of infantry school in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He hopes to be an Infantry Officer, and when the opportunity arises, a Foreign Area Officer, which is a liaison, translator and diplomat between the U.S. army and a foreign nation's military and government. By the time most people get out of

bed, Luis has already completed the ROTC physical and tactical training, eaten breakfast, and gotten some homework done. He keeps a good grip on his schedule by keeping a calendar and texting himself so he won't forget to do things. Luis works hard to inspire his fourteen nieces and nephews. He and his brother were the only ones who graduated high school in his family, and he wants to change that. While they hold him accountable to his studies, Luis encourages his nieces and nephews to work hard, too. His family, life experiences, and service have molded Luis to be disciplined and have a desire to help others. Now he has the confidence that he can do well in what he participates in because he's been challenged. According to Luis, success is his ideology and the standard for all of his activities, and



there's no doubt that he'll exceed that standard.

Luis was recently selected for a prestigious summer internship in Stuttgart, Germany with the U.S. European Military Command.



Sarah Neal

Sarah is a freshman biomedical science major who hopes to be a pediatric physician assistant (PA). Her calling came while working in a family friend's physical therapy office over the summer during high school. She shadowed a PA and fell head over heels for the job. "It showed me exactly what everyday was going to be like, and I loved it. I thought, 'I can be passionate about this every single day.'"

Sarah was trying to decide between six colleges when she was a senior at Tivy High School in Kerrville. When she came to Tarleton for her campus tour and Honors College CIA day, something was different. She saw "Welcome to Tarleton, Sarah!" on a

sign and liked the personal touch. To her, it just felt like home.

Beside being in Honors, Sarah is actively involved in the Paradigm college ministry, which she says is her favorite part about Stephenville. She attends a bible study and has found her community that she can trust.

She's passionate about Japan and even knows a little Japanese after being there for only ten days. "Every time we would say hello in Japanese the kids would just laugh at us. They were so cute. The people were so nice." Sarah hopes to return to Japan in the future for at least three months, and maybe a full year.

Miranda Fuentes

Miranda is a senior biomedical science major with a pre-vet concentration and a minor in Animal Science. She is from Abilene and has a big family, including her parents, two biological siblings, and two adopted siblings. According to Miranda, education is very important to her family as she, one of her brothers, and her mom are all currently in college. "My mom is graduating from Abilene Christian University with a master's degree in social work, I'm here, and my brother goes to college in Abilene," she said. Miranda explained that she grew up learning a lot about other cultures by going to the Abilene Public Library, downtown culture events, and the Grace Museum. Both of her parents provided strong support for her educational aspirations. She heard about Tarleton during her sophomore year of high school in one of her

agriculture classes. What caught her attention was a commitment to student excellence. "Although I am a part of a large department, and a large college, which is part of an even larger university, I do feel like an individual. I am not a number to Tarleton; I am Miranda Fuentes." She likes being in the Presidential Honors Program because "in a smaller class you can give out your idea without feeling like you're going to be judged or reprimanded because the Honors classes house Honors students, and the Honors students are very understanding." Miranda says she thinks there is a stigma attached to Honors students that they have no life, and are just goal-oriented. She



says that for her, Honors was not like that. Honors allowed her to express her individuality and understanding in the classroom, surrounded by excellent, welcoming professors and classmates that quickly became family.

In late February, Miranda was accepted into the Texas A&M Veterinary school where she will pursue her dreams of becoming a veterinarian and eventually influencing policy and public perceptions of veterinary research and medicine.

The Bush School Public Service Institute

BY VICTORIA VILLASEÑOR (HISTORY)

Last October 1, along with sophomore Sydney Casey, had the opportunity to spend a weekend touring the Bush School Public Service Institute at A&M in College Station. The purpose of this experience was to learn about the programs offered by this graduate school, as well as understand what goes into being effective in public service.

We went to College Station on a Friday morning, and were expected to attend a panel discussion featuring the past Deans of the Bush School that evening. The panel discussion gave the former deans opportunity to reflect on their leadership roles and achievements while holding the position as dean, as well as draw on their personal experience in public service. Not only have these men served as the dean of the program, they have also held top roles in our government alongside former Presidents of the United States. It was quite enlightening to see how despite some former deans working for Presidencies of opposite parties, they could all come together and objectively govern and foster higher education. And all agreed that, regardless of party lines, the primary goal of all levels of government is to serve and protect the people. We left the panel with excitement and anxiousness for what opportunities were to come the following day.

The second day (Saturday) of the tour was more hands-on and informative. Our day began early in the morning with a few icebreakers and leadership exercises, which drew us all closer together. There were between 20-25 students from universities all around Texas, and all of us shared the same passion to serve. One thing that I was relieved and excited to learn was that almost all of the students who attended the Bush School tour were minority or first-generation students (and a few, like myself, fell into both categories). We were then split into two groups; those who were interested in domestic policy, and those who had an interest in international affairs. In our group, the domestic policy-focused, we discussed current policy, functions of local governments and their relation to the federal government, and government spending (yikes!). When both groups convened, it was time to get down to business and learn what it takes to get into the Bush School. Here, we went over numbers such as acceptance rates, tuition, and scholarship opportunities. This is where the reality of competitiveness in regards to grad school really hit me.

We also had the opportunity to spend time with a panel of current students and listen to their lives leading up to, and currently being a Bush School student. The discussion was very insightful and inspiring to receive



advice from people who, not only shared the same passions as us but have also worked to refine their desire to serve. It was even more inspiring to see that the group of students were from a variety of racial, religious, and social backgrounds; this made it easier to see myself as a future Bush student, or even as a grad student in general. Before this experience, I was teetering back and forth as to whether or not receiving my master's degree could be something achievable (or even necessary). I was questioning my ability, stamina, and weighing the pros and cons of continuing my education away from home. However, after the, what I call, "Bush Weekend" I realized that those were just little worldly excuses that were restricting me from reaching higher levels of success. I'm not quite sure if I'll commit myself to the Bush School, but I have committed myself to continuing to better myself. I highly recommend everyone in the Honors College, as well as the general Tarleton campus, to take advantage of these opportunities to widen your academic range. This weekend put me on an undergraduate path that will prepare me to refine my skills in a graduate program.

Catfish: The Research Project

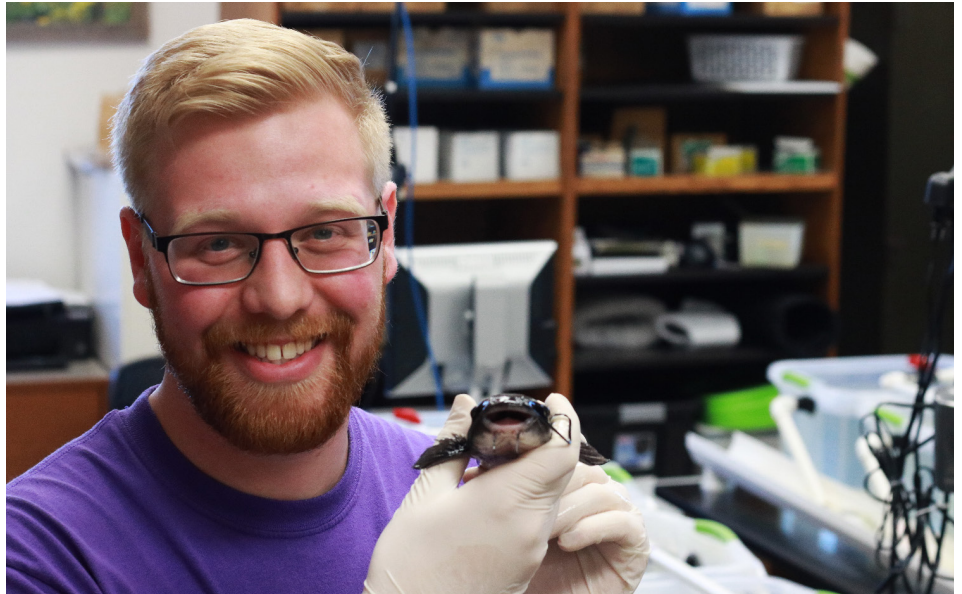
BY JUSTIN HUNT (BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE)

Through being a part of the Presidential Honors Program at Tarleton, I have had the opportunity to meet some of the best and brightest students, outstanding faculty, and take part in one the many avenues of undergraduate research that Tarleton State University has to offer. In June of 2016, under the guidance of Dr. Max G. Sanderford, I began to look into the possible physiologic mechanism by which channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, maintain and regulate their blood pressure (BP). We were later joined by a graduate student, Austin Davis, in January 2017.

The main question that we first sought to answer was to determine whether or not the catfish could possibly regulate blood pressure by way of the Renin – Angiotensin System that is found in all mammals to stimulate water intake.

To test this hypothesis, local channel catfish were obtained, anesthetized, and underwent a minor surgical implantation of a dorsal aortic catheter to record BP. After 48 hours of post-operation recovery, the fish were connected to a BP transducer to convert analog blood pressure pulses into digital pulse signals for us to see and record on a computer. Experimental protocol called for taking resting BP to establish a baseline measure, followed by low, medium, and high doses of Angiotensin I (ANG-I), a peptide hormone that causes vasoconstriction when converted to Angiotensin II (ANG-II) by Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) [see Figure 1]. After each dose, fish were allowed to rest and return to baseline BP. Following the high dose, an ACE inhibitor, Captopril, was given followed by a repeat of the high dose of ANG-I and a medium dose of ANG-II.

With each increasing dose of ANG-I,



we saw a greater increase in BP from baseline (Δ BP), and following the ACE inhibitor, there was almost zero Δ BP when the highest dose of ANG-I was repeated because the ACE inhibitor was able to block the conversion of ANG-I to ANG-II. By giving the final infusion of ANG-II, we were able to demonstrate that ANG-I could convert to ANG-II to cause a Δ BP. ANG-I did not yield a Δ BP when ACE was blocked, but ANG-II could still directly yield a Δ BP. This evidence suggests that channel catfish do possess a functional Renin – Angiotensin System similar to mammals, but gives rise to the question: how is this mechanism used in freshwater fish that do not need to intake water as opposed to mammals?

Our research was recently accepted for publication by the Texas Journal of Science, although our study is only the first step in understanding how channel catfish might regulate their blood pressure; further research, including a graduate thesis, is currently being conducted to better understand in what situations the Renin – Angiotensin System might be activated or regulated. Having been a part of undergraduate research has been an excellent way to actively apply both scientific inquiry and the scientific method from my biology education, as well as develop more finely tuned manual dexterity by performing surgery in the buccal cavity of catfish that will be beneficial as I plan to attend dental school in the future.

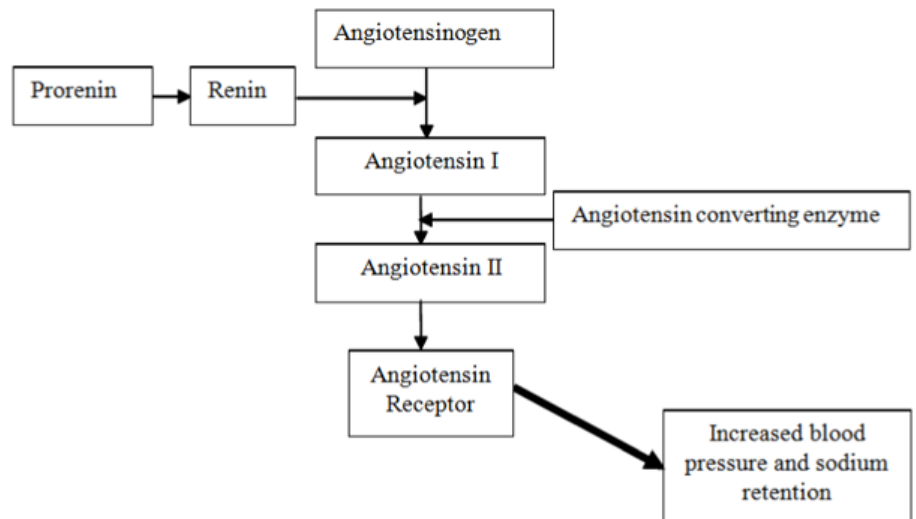


Figure 1. Angiotensinogen Pathway

BECOMING LEADERS

Their Next Step

BY STACY LUKA (BIOMED. SCIENCE & CHEMISTRY)

A baby's first steps come with immense anticipation up until that spectacular moment when the baby overcomes their hesitations and takes those first steps into a life of countless steps. Fast-forward to senior year of high school where the same fear rushes through the mind of a student on the verge of the next big step in their life. It was upon reminiscing on these major milestones in one's early life that I realized that I had to become a part of the Honors College Campus in Action Days.

Campus in Action provides prospective students with a glimpse into the life of an honors student as they eat lunch at the Dining Hall

with current students, attend a mock honors class, and get advised for future classes.

Nothing can compare to seeing the transformation of these students within a single day; they arrived nervous and clinging to their parents and left excited and confident about their future endeavors. Although the uncertainty of doing something for the first time may trigger anxiety, I hope that these students realized that their fears cannot stop them from achieving what their hearts desire, especially stepping into their first year of college. I can say with certainty that becoming a part of the Tarleton Honors College has changed my life just as it will change the lives of these prospective students. One day, these students will be able to look back and know that becoming a part of the Tarleton family was a tremendous step in their lives.

Tarleton Scholars Society

BY CIERA KADE (ENGLISH)

The Tarleton Scholars Society, known as TSS, is an on-campus organization dedicated to our studies and improving ourselves and Tarleton in a scholastic manner. We promote intellectual liberty, fraternity, and equality among our members. TSS has been involved in the TREAT rodeo and taking annual trips to the Kimbell Art Museum, the Ballet, the Symphony, and other educationally enriching events.

Just a few of the many events in progress for this semester include poetry readings with guest speakers,



ice cream socials, a trip to the Granbury Opera House, courtyard picnic meetings, and canvas painting sessions. We are also in the process of organizing several volunteer opportunities through the Stephenville Public Library and a reading workshop through the Chamberlin Elementary School.

For more information, please contact current TSS President Ciera Kade at ciera.kade@go.tarleton.edu. Visit us on Facebook and Instagram by searching "Tarleton Scholars Society."

Declaration of a Fly

BY HEIDI SPANN (BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE)

On arrival into Europe, I found myself questioning all: all that I knew about Italy, traveling, and myself. Not too unlike the great philosopher, Socrates, I began to seek understanding. Socrates defines himself as the nagging gadfly to the noble, but lazy, steed of Athens. Socrates states that he was stinging the Athenians aware to the presence of their virtuous souls. The gates of Urbino were my gadflies. I was stung aware to the tangible existence of other cultures and became alert to my own.

Italy was different from what I expected. I expected a countryside oozing in luxuries, vineyards, steamy romance, and sleek Ferraris. Although some of these stereotypes exist, Italy itself was more like a country full of hermit crabs. The inhabitants are blissfully unaware of the splendor they reside in. Historical buildings were merely shells to be filled with modern day technologies and tourist entanglements. Locals mingled around architectural marvels, such as the Ducale Palace and the Duomo of Firenze, passively, indifferent to the splendor. They grew up surrounded by an abundance of history, a past they are well aware of. I could even taste the antiquity in the food because this history was so engrained in the people there. This is part of their culture. The artifacts I consider astonishing are simply every-day in an Italian's life. Their un-interest stung me aware of my own blatant disregard toward my homeland.

Before I left America, I distinctly remember how badly I wanted to "travel the world". I thought that if I went to Italy I would fall in love

DISCOVERING URBINO



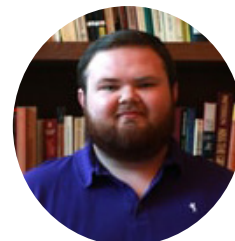
with the ancient place. However, the sad truth was I felt the complete opposite. For about a half a week I told myself I would never live here until I realized what I saw was not a dislike for Italy, but a disdain for how little I appreciated my own home. Struck with this thought, I realized I underrated the undiscovered beauty of the United States. I took my home for granted. For Pete's sake, I have scarcely been outside of Texas. Ironically, coming to the other side of the world helped me to uncover my desire to explore the New World (Do not misunderstand me; I still desire traveling plenty of the Old World). Like Socrates, my experience in Urbino represented a gadfly. This study abroad left the first bite of adventure, which has developed into an itch to travel.

This past summer, before boarding the flight to Italy, Heidi had a 24-hour turn around between study abroad and another engaging experience - the Joint Admission Medical Program, which is a partnership between all nine Texas Medical schools that offers guaranteed medical school admission after successful program completion.

Why are you excited about going to Italy this summer?

“ I think it will be interesting to immerse myself in a new culture and meet new people. Italy is so full of history, yet it also holds a plethora of new experiences. It's a great opportunity to study another culture from the inside. I cannot wait to get out there and try new things!

-JOSH MOORE, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE



“ I'm ready to irrigate my life with diversity! Experiencing the new, learning history as it's right in front of me, actually tasting real pasta. It'll be an eye opening, unforgettable experience.

-TALI MUNOZ, MEDICAL LAB SCIENCES



“ Academia gives us the most wonderful opportunities to expand our knowledge, but when we can take that overseas the growth is exponential. I am excited for the growth, the culture, and the incredible experience!

-SYDNEY CASEY, PSYCHOLOGY



“ I am looking forward to experiencing the incredible art. I will finally get to see paintings and sculptures by the masters that I've only ever seen in books. I also can't wait to see the cities and countryside that inspired the painters and authors who are still influencing our society today.

-HANNAH BAHLMANN, HISTORY



“ I am very excited to get to learn the Italian language and to see the differences in lifestyle compared to what we have here. I am looking forward to getting to meet and live with the Italian students and hopefully keeping up with them once the trip is over.

-PATRICIA CATALDO, KINESIOLOGY





PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCISCO CASTRO (DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIES)



Equilibrium

BY CIERA KADE (ENGLISH)

Dirty cup on counter
sits in silence
Used, stained, empty

This worn couch
has seen many restless days
Sleepless nights

Plastic glowing stars
pasted to ceilings and walls
Dreams of reaching starry heights

The house just as he left it
he returns to tuck her in
Silly butterfly kisses
Good is the night

Morning, please be patient
The full moon needs it's turn
Gracing the sky
clearing dust from a long day

Wait, sun, do not shine so near
Let them sleep
Hold the dawn chorus
Let dreamland crescendo
...then make it disappear

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUKE MUNCRATH
(COMMUNICATION STUDIES)

*Photographer's Forum Best of College
Finalist,
TAMRON Student Showcase Honorable
Mention*

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

For the Love of Research

BY KRISTEN BOWMAN (PSYCHOLOGY)

My educational experience at Tarleton has been one in a million. The experiences that I've had have helped me to develop as a student, employee, and person. The best of my experiences have stemmed from my research. In the summer of 2015 I started working in the Numerical Cognition Lab under the First Year Research Experience program. From the first moment, I knew this was an amazing opportunity. I began working with my mentor, Dr. Tom Faulkenberry, Assistant Professor for the Department of Psychological Sciences. Our work in the Numerical Cognition Lab focuses on how people process numbers. By learning more about how people process numbers, we can eventually create better learning styles and habits for processing numbers.



Over the past three years I have conducted four research projects and each one has taught me a different lesson. From the first project, I learned the basics of how to conduct research. From my second project, I was able to use the basics I had learned and become even more immersed in the project. For my third project, I was able to use new technology to enhance my research style and presentation. And finally, in my fourth project I was able to use all of the tools that I had learned to create my project by myself. While all of my projects were awesome for different reasons, my fourth project is by far my favorite because I was able to take all that I have learned

over the past few years and mold the information to fit my project. I will continue to conduct research in my graduate program because of the love and excitement I feel when discovering something new. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to travel to Boston, Massachusetts; Vancouver, Canada; and more to present my research at international conferences. Each conference has helped to broaden my horizons on the importance of studying the brain. Research has had many positive impacts on my student experience and my personal growth. I hope to one day share my love of research with students, just as my mentor has done with me.



Leaving My Legacy

BY MIRANDA STOTZ (ANIMAL SCIENCE)

I am the last ambassador to graduate from the first round of Honors Ambassadors picked nearly four years ago. I can still remember that first day in Centennial waiting for Dr. Clifford to tell us exactly what we had signed up for. It has definitely been an amazing opportunity that has allowed me to give back to a program that has given me so much. I can honestly say I wouldn't trade the experience for any other. I have made many friends and memories through the program. As I look back on my final semester at Tarleton, I am honored to say I have been a part of a program that encourages intellect and understanding. The

Honors Ambassador program has allowed me to be a part of celebrating those that strive to achieve academic excellence. I can't express how incredible it is to be able to represent such an outstanding group of individuals, and I highly recommend it to anyone who is considering applying. Through the years, new faces have shown up at the events and I am continually impressed by the caliber of students that are now a part of the team. I feel unbelievably proud to have served as an ambassador, and I know those that serve in the future will only be better.



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ARETĒ

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ARETĒ

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