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issue



PHS  
News



Visits to  
Bass Hall



Honors  
Graduates

## NEWS BRIEFS

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- \*NOVEMBER 1: Texan Tour
- \*NOVEMBER 1: Tour of the Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums
- \*NOVEMBER 7: Early Honors Registration
- \*NOVEMBER 8: Academic Awards Luncheon
- \*NOVEMBER 23: Ft. Worth Symphony.
- \*FEBRUARY 8: Musical "Cats" at Bass Hall
- \*FEBRUARY 14: Chamber Music at the Modern Art Museum

The Honors website has been recently updated. To check out your page, view new pictures, or find information on graduates log on to [www. tarleton.edu/~honors](http://www.tarleton.edu/~honors).

### Seniors:

If you are doing a senior research project and will be graduating after December 2008, please contact Becky Frazier at [bfrazier@tarleton.edu](mailto:bfrazier@tarleton.edu) so we can set up a time for your Brown Bag Presentation.

## First Ever Special Honors Orientation

On June 19 and 20, 2008, Tarleton hosted the first-time-ever Honors Orientation, a special early orientation session for academically talented students. All incoming freshmen who met the criteria for participation in the Honors Degree Program, as well as all entering freshmen in the Presidential Honors Program, were invited. 265 students and 230 parents attended. In addition to the general introduction to the University that all sessions of Texan Orientation provide, the special Tarleton Honors Orientation included a number of sessions that were specifically

tailored for the students of outstanding academic ability. Dr. Phil Sudman conducted a session on student research opportunities at Tarleton; Presidential Honors senior English major Jessica Farrar gave a presentation on educational and cultural enrichment opportunities; Dr. Craig Clifford discussed the requirements and benefits of Tarleton's two honors programs with students and parents; and Drs. Julie Chappell, Mike Milford, Charles Howard, and Matt Hallgarth conducted sessions on the transition from high school to college.

## Honors Enrollment the Largest Ever

As a result of the new Honors Orientation, Honors classes have seen a boost in overall enrollment for fall 2008 to 285 students. In addition, two sections of Honors English 111 are being offered for the first time, Honors sections of Coms 101 have increased from three to four, lab sections for Honors Biol 120 have increased from two to three, and an Honors section of Geol 108 (Natural Disasters) is being offered for the first time.

## Honors Wing of Centennial Hall Expands

In the fall of 2008, the Honors Wing of Centennial Hall was expanded to include the entire third floor. Eighty-four students are housed in the Honors Wing. Students are admitted to the Honors Wing in this order of priority: Presidential Honors Scholars; participants in the Honors Degree Program pursuing the 18-hour Honors degree; participants in the Honors Degree Program taking any Honors classes; students eligible for the Honors Degree Program.

# Honors Students Attend Two Ballets

By: Crystal Sims (English)

My childhood memories are filled with twisted ankles, bruised knees, and pink slippers, as I was enrolled in a ballet class at an early age and remained for a number of years. Nevertheless, after learning that I definitely had no grace or capacity for performing the art, ballet has remained a passion of mine observed from the darkened rows of the auditorium.

In the spring semester of 2008, accompanying other Tarleton Honors Program students and guests, I had the privilege of seeing a ballet presentation of *Dracula*. Bram Stoker's great tale of horror has always been a favorite friend on my bookshelf; therefore, I was ecstatic to have the chance to view the famed bloodsucker on stage.

The lights dimmed, and as the show began my doubts began to rise. I

have always enjoyed tales of Dracula and other related, if lesser, vampires and ghouls of that nature, but it was hard for me to envision any night terrors executing grand jetés when they are renowned for creeping about in the shadows of darkness. The question kept formulating in my mind, "Will the dancers be able to portray the menacing allure of Dracula, or will I leave feeling all warm and fuzzy inside due to their tranquility?" My racing mind stopped in mid-track, luckily, with the first appearance of the dark villain. I remained transfixed, scarcely blinking, for the next two hours. I could not drag my eyes away from the splendid costumes, the exquisite scenery, or the dancers' actions. I felt a happiness bloom inside me as I witnessed the villagers' festival dances, and I felt a cold shudder in my bones

during the scenes of Dracula's young brides dancing in flowing white. The "special affects" performed by the dancers, more sleight of hand illusions to make the characters appear and disappear, can only be described as spellbinding. I still maintain, though apparently I was the only one to see the feat, a bride of Dracula "melted" into his grand canopy bed; then again, this very well could have been my own overly active imagination. Unfortunately, our seats were a bit too high in the balcony to enjoy the presentation from a horizontal view, but, despite this, the entire experience was sensational. My guests and I finished the day by stopping for ice-cream before returning to Stephenville. The day's experience reminded me of my childhood: ballet, sore feet, and sweet treats shared with friends.

By: Lauren Darling  
(History)

Last Fall, the Presidential Honors group was given an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the arts. Along with fellow students, ballet enthusiasts, and Tarleton professors, I attended the ballet *Coppelia*. I had never been to a ballet before, and was completely unaware of how comical a ballet could be. The whimsical music matched beautifully the shenanigans of a young, jealous girl and her friends. Any person who has not seen *Coppelia* should know that it will make you laugh more than any stand-up comedy ever could. The silliness is seemingly endless as the audience follows Swalinda and Franz through their endeavors. I had

always expected ballets to be of a more serious subject matter, but I greatly enjoyed being proved wrong. My favorite scene had to be when Swalinda impersonated Coppelia. Her responses to Coppelia were downright hysterical. Both dancers and props were expertly chosen, and at times, during scenes that involved life size puppets and dolls, I almost thought I was looking at thousands of dollars in mechanized puppets instead of the wonderful ballet dancers with a great talent

for looking mechanized. As much as I enjoyed the ballet, Bass Hall was, in and of itself, an incredible sight to behold, and equally as spectacular as any ballet. I hope to be privileged enough to attend another performance there soon.



# Presidential Honors Society News

By: Will Mayfield  
(English/Mathematics)

This year, the members of the Presidential Honors Society were privileged to be able to take part in lots of new activities. We formed an intramural Softball team called



L to R: Wesley Martin, Corey Williams, Jill Dean, Kim Hicks, Sarah Barmore, Rachael Crouch, Cassie Cox, William Fuelbuerg, Will Mayfield, Fran Surles, Zane Christian, and Daniel Watts

“The Hooters,” after the PHP mascot. This was a huge success in helping our group grow and become closer to one another. Also, PHS held an information session on Fair Trade products, hosted by Christopher Stanley-Stevens, where we learned how

Fair Trade benefits both small farmers and the environment. We enjoyed his presentation so much that we decided to help spread the word about fairly traded

products across campus by setting up a booth at Tarelton’s “Bleed Purple, Go Green” Earth



Day event. We also set up a sucker pull booth at Tarelton’s annual Halloween carnival, where our costumed members catered to the candy-loving children of our community. We are all very excited about this upcoming school year and the new activities that we plan to incorporate, including being involved in more intramural sports teams, fundraising by selling fairly traded products, and a taking a group trip to the Renaissance Festival.

## Visiting Scholar, Dr. Mark Sinnet, Hosts Seminar

By: Rachel Crouch  
(Pre-Med)

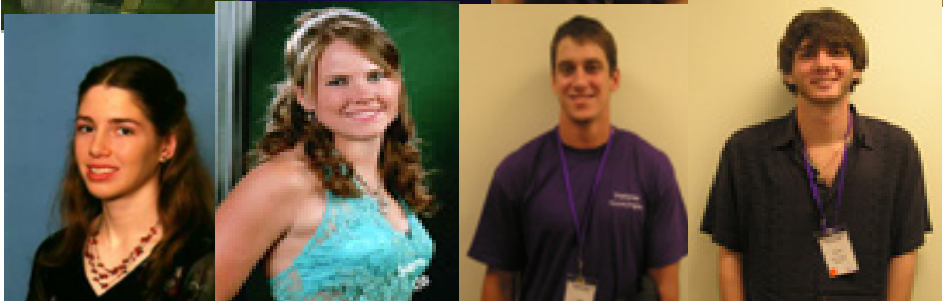
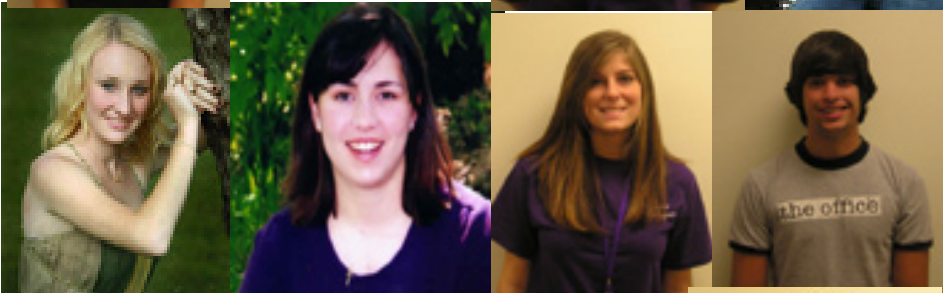
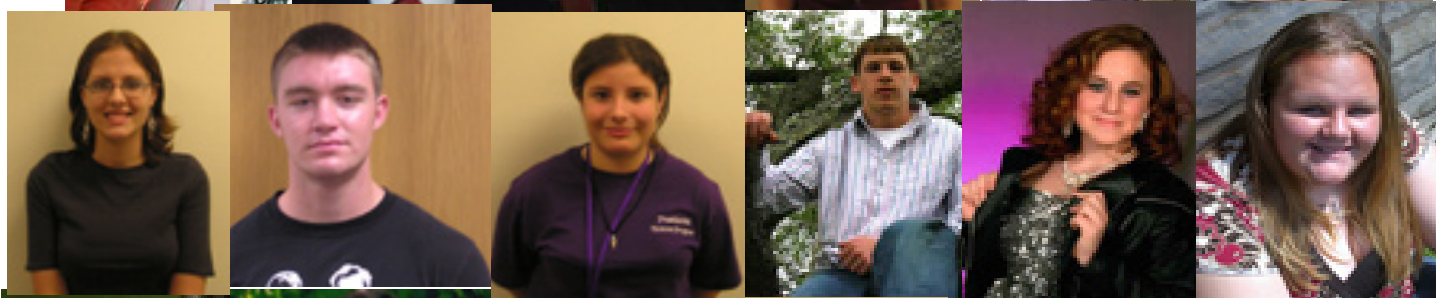
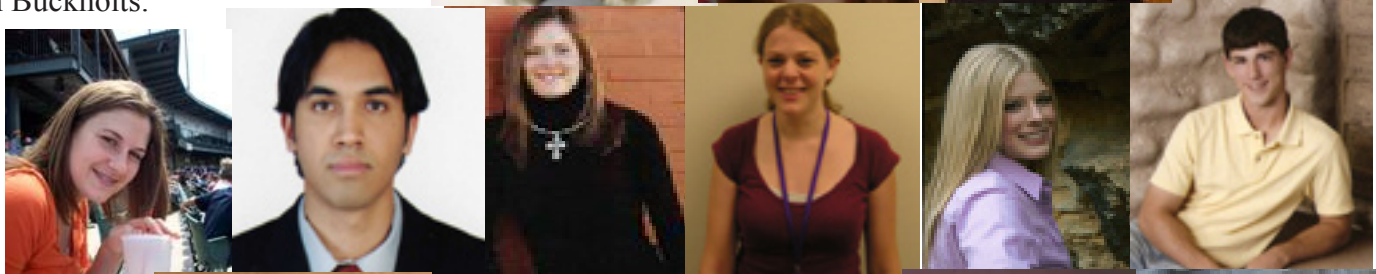
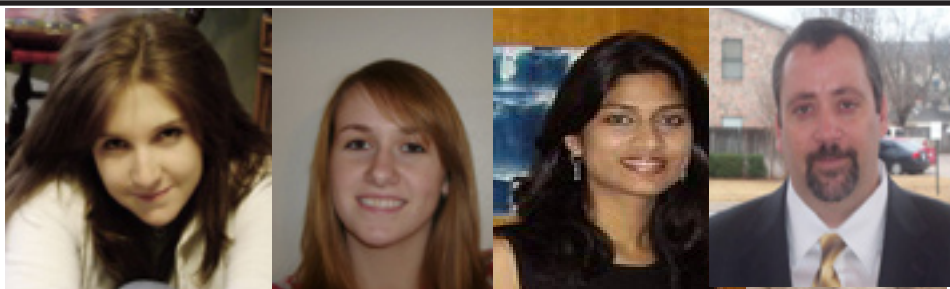
Visiting scholar Mark Sinnet of St. John’s College presented an interesting seminar on Ptolemy’s *Almagest* and the importance of mathematics. At St. John’s, mathematics is approached as a liberal art, and students read classic books of math and astronomy rather than the latest edition of a Calculus textbook. The seminar style presentation was rather intimidating at first. Dr. Sinnet opened up the discussion with a

question—Why should we study mathematics?—which was followed by complete silence. But after a few moments of awkward silence, we gradually got a discussion going, and each student contributed many interesting ideas to the seminar. Through our discussion, with Dr. Sinnet moderating, we learned that there is more to mathematics than just its practical, vocational use. Though Ptolemy was very mistaken in some of his ideas (i.e., all heavenly bodies revolve around

the earth), he showed remarkable insight for someone of his time, within the limits of his observations, and noticed that our visible world does have some kind of mathematical order to it. He also believed very strongly that studying mathematics and astronomy is good for the human soul, because by studying the order and the motions in the heavens, we mortals become more like the heavenly bodies themselves—orderly, constant, and good.

# FEATURE Twenty-Five New Presidential Honors Students

In January, we accepted seven new students: Luisa Cossio, from Mexico; Shelby East, from Abilene; Divya Manavalan, from India; Sarah Martin, from Bedford; Jackie Reynolds, from Brownwood; Rijo Santhosh, from India; and Julie Vrazel, from Buckholts.



We are happy to have all of these new students here with us in the Presidential Honors Programs and at Tarleton State University. Best of luck to all of you.

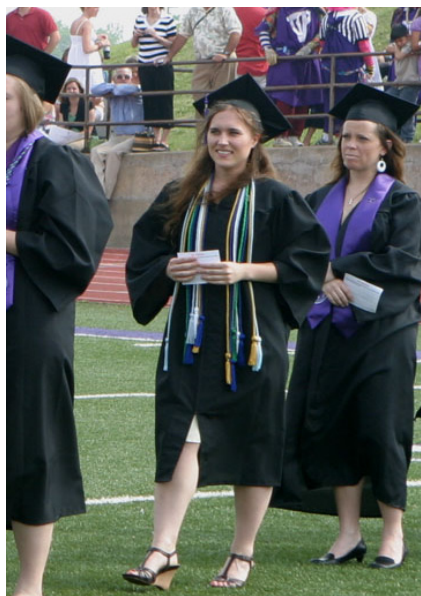
This fall we welcome 18 new freshmen. Among the freshmen, we have three valedictorians, five with an SAT over 1300, and four with a 29 or higher on the ACT. Please take some time to introduce yourself to our new students and welcome them to Tarleton:

Caroline Cavin, from Ft. Worth; Caitlyn Cooper, from Jacksboro; Cletus Fuhrmann, from Gainseville; Ailia Hook, from Temple; Charles Innocenti, from Killeen; Briana Jamison, from Brookshire; Joshua Johnson, from Linden; Jennifer Morrison, from Apple Springs; Ashlee Noblin, from Marble Falls; Rachel Offut, from Benbrook; Shayla Priddy, from Stephenville; Natalie Rose, from Weatherford; Shaun Rowan, from Roundrock; Traeann Schlemmer, from Riesel; Sara Uptergrove, from Hico; Joseph Watson, from Linden; Jacob Wright, from Llano, and Sarah Zeisler, from Allen.

## CONGRATULATIONS, HONORS GRADUATES!

### Fall 2007 Graduates:

- \*Jennifer Dalecki, Biology
- \*Alyssa Hardy, Biology
- \*Amanda McWhirt, Horticulture
- \*Garrett Rosser, Biomedical Sciences
- \*Jennifer Young, Mathematics



### Spring 2008 Graduates:

- \*Cassie Cox, Biology
- \*Adrian Dunson, Biomedical Sciences
- \*Jessica Farrar, English, Outstanding Graduate
- \*Kimberly Fehlis, Biology and Spanish, Outstanding Graduate, (Biological Sciences)
- \*Amanda Vineyard, Exercise and Sports Studies
- \*Elizabeth Watson, Biology
- \*Lindsay Wright, Communications Studies, Outstanding Graduate

### Summer 2008 Graduates

- \*Rachel Howell, Finance



### Honors Degree

#### Program Graduates:

Fall 2007

- \*Maribeth Miller, Sociology

Spring 2008

- \*Catherine Cotton, Accounting
- \*Neil Knauth, Computer Information Systems

## TWENTY- NINE HONORS STUDENTS EARN 4.0!

**Fall 2007:** Sarah Barmore, Horticulture; Aileen Blum, English; Zane Christian, Agribusiness; Lydia Colvin, Spanish; Amanda Couch, Geology; Rachael Crouch, Pre-Med; Rebecca Frazier, English; Rebecca Garrett, Art; Jed Gohlke, Mathematics; Will Mayfield, Mathematics/English; James Peiskee, Engineering Physics; Crystal Sims, English; Sarah Warren, Theatre; Jennifer Schwartz, General Studies; Jennifer Dalecki, Biology; Amanda McWhirt, Horticulture; Jessica Farrar,

English; Kim Fehlis, Spanish/Chemistry; Amanda Vineyard, Exercise and Sports Studies.

**Spring 2008:** Aimee Ayton, Mathematics; Sarah Barmore, Horticulture; Aileen Blum, English; Rachael Crouch, Pre-Med; Shelby East, Pre-Vet; Rebecca Frazier, English; Jed Gohlke, Mathematics; Divya Manavalan, Nursing; Will Mayfield, Mathematics/English; Jessica Moorhouse, Accounting; Bailey Pearson, English; James Peiskee, Engineer

ing Physics; Jackie Reynolds, Economics/ Mathematics; Kevin Woller, Engineering Physics; Cassie Cox, Biology; Adrian Dunson, Biomedical Science; Jessica Farrar, English; Kim Fehlis, Spanish/ Chemistry; Amanda Vineyard; Exercise and Sports Studies, Lindsay Wright, Communications

Congratulations to all of these students for such an outstanding achievement and good luck in the coming semesters!

## Honors Student Studies Spanish in Mexico

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By: Fran Surlles  
(Biology)

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On May 17, 2008 I boarded a plane for Mexico to begin my five week study of Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico. I had no idea what I was in for or what was about to happen. Little did I know that I would return with a new appreciation of a culture, a new-found knowledge of a language, and the best friends in the world. Our group from Tarleton consisted of fourteen students and one professor. We flew into Mexico City and then took a bus to Cuernavaca which is located two hours southwest of Mexico City. Cuernavaca is a huge city with a population of over one million. That first night we were immediately separated and sent to live

with our sponsor families. The family I lived with had a nice house and a smaller guest house, so my roommate and I lived in our own guesthouse, which was very nice. Every Monday through Friday, we got ready for school, which started at eight. We began with a three hour grammar class, where our teacher spoke no English, and then we had two hours of conversation class followed by an idiomatic expressions class for one hour. We finished school at two everyday. At this time our Mexican hosts would come and pick us up and take us home for lunch, which was a huge meal since their lunch is their biggest meal of the day. After lunch we usually had a siesta and at night our group would go out and explore the

town. On the weekends we would go on excursions as a group. We got to see incredible pyramids, crystal clear rivers, Acapulco, Mexico City and so much more. Finally, it was time for us to come home. Some of the group could not wait to get home, and while I did miss home there is something so magical about Mexico that I did not want to leave. I went to Mexico only wanting to improve my Spanish, but I came back with new great friends. I received not only great practice of Spanish, but I got to know the people who speak the language, and to me that was the best part. I believe that Mexican people are some of the kindest and most generous people that I have ever met. Hopefully, I will get to return one day.

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## Dr. Esterchild Presents Research to Honors Class

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By: Ashley Dalrymple  
(Sociology)

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Dr. Elizabeth Esterchild presented her study, "A Model of Gender Status Among Ranch Families," to Dr. Stanley-Stevens' Honors Introduction to Sociology class last spring. The discussion touched on the differences of power between men and women in a relationship. Stratification differs from society to society and is apparent among couples of men and women. Within each relationship, one of the two partners has the "say so" in the relationship, or is the one who makes the majority of the decisions. Dr. Esterchild pointed out that in the United States it is rare to discuss the idea that there may be any unequal decision making among men

and women, regardless of the situation. In our society there is a gap between men and women and how society's rewards are handed out. Men are typically paid more than women even for the same job. The resource theory that Dr. Esterchild discussed stated that whoever is bringing in the majority of the resources has the most power. Since men are usually paid a higher wage than women for the same work then, according to this theory, men usually have the majority of the power and therefore get to do the majority of the decision making. While many women are able to bring equal and sometimes more resources than men, they aren't always the ones who get to make decisions. Both men

and women discount women's ability and what women are able to bring to a relationship. During her time on the ranches that she studied, Dr. Esterchild found that not only is there a choice between who makes the decisions, but also a choice about who gets to decide who makes the decisions. It is advantageous to not be the decision maker because the person that makes the decisions usually is the one that has to complete them. With this added information, determining who makes the decision becomes even more difficult. These sociological issues are apparent in everyday relationships that affect our daily lives.

# Honors Student Attends Conference

By: Sarah Barmore (Horticulture)

The Presidential Honors Program gave Amanda McWhirt, Lindsay Dorman and me the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by the University of Denver last September. We arrived in Denver, Colorado with only the barest of knowledge of what the conference desired from us--but nothing could have prepared us for the impact of those seven hours. The Americans for Informed Democracy (the group who pulled the event together) attracted bright, enthusiastic students from different backgrounds, university teaching styles, degrees, and passions from extraordinary distances to help enrich the fabric of the conference. And what a noble cause to rally up the finest and most compassionate! The conference centered on human security, presenting ideas and global solutions for the world's most vulnerable. Early in the day, the students were split into groups by individual interests and each group discussed each person's reason for being at the conference and the relevance of their topic to human security. My

group focused on the impact one individual could make in rallying the community around them. The facilitator of the group encouraged individuals to share their own experiences and offered pointers on how to get events, trips, and drives organized, funded, and promoted. In between the small-



group workshops and the main event, the Americans for Informed Democracy offered a number of pamphlets, videos, newsletters, magazines, and sign-up sheets for those eager to get aid in starting programs or hosting video events to create awareness in their communities. When the final panel discussion of honored speakers arrived, all the students were brimming with fresh ideas, charged with a new excitement, and ready

to leap into their world and make a difference. The panel discussion dedicated its time to examine the intersection of human security through global health, environment, development, and conflict. The speakers offered a new approach to America's traditional methods of protecting human security around the globe. The three of us left this final discussion with our heads reeling and our hearts staggering under the weight of the global needs, and the impact we, as individuals, could make on the world around us. At the end of the day, it was an experience every responsible and compassionate American could benefit from. If the opportunity to attend conferences like the one I experienced was offered up to more individuals, who knows the amount of progress that could be made towards a stronger global community?

If you would like to know more about the group that promotes events and conferences such as the one above, go to the Americans for Informed Democracy's website at [www.aidemocracy.org](http://www.aidemocracy.org).

## Dr. Ferris Discusses Chick Flicks at Brown Bag Lunch

By: Becky Frazier  
(English)

Last semester, we were privileged to host Dr. Suzanne Ferris as a visiting scholar at Tarleton State University. Dr. Ferris is a professor of English at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She has written a number of books including co-editing *Chick Lit* and *Chick Flicks* with Tarleton's own

Dr. Mallory Young. Dr. Ferris spoke to the sophomore Honors Seminar about the similarities and differences between the first, second, and third waves of feminism. She also attended a question and answer luncheon with a number of students from the Honors Programs who are interested in pursuing English as a major or a minor. She also hosted a Brown Bag Lunch where

she discussed facts about "Chick Flicks" and "Chick Lit" and how they not only affect, but represent the everyday woman. It was very interesting to see how Chick Flicks and Chick Lit have changed over time and to see how they have affected women and the idea of feminism. Her research and knowledge about this topic was certainly interesting and engaging.



PHP and HDP members who wish to contribute ideas, stories, or insights to the newsletter, contact Becky Frazier at [st\\_frazier@tarleton.edu](mailto:st_frazier@tarleton.edu).

## 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 [*aretē*].”