

CADENZA

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAMAR  UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Fall 2009 / Spring 2010

Rebekah Maxwell Reflects Back on her Partners in the Parks Experience at Acadia National Park in Maine

Written by Rebekah Maxwell

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to participate in Partners in the Parks in Acadia National Park Maine. I loved traveling to Maine and experiencing a variety of outdoor activities and adventures. This was a weeklong project that consisted of different learning activities such as fire ecology, conservation, air quality monitoring, astronomy, photography, literature, philosophy, archeology, art, and biology. We also had numerous hiking excursions where we were able to explore different areas of the park and Maine, and I sailed for the first time on a 150 foot schooner!

The hiking excursions were memorable, especially the sunrise hike up Cadillac Mountain. We got up at about three in the morning and hiked several hours to reach the summit in time to see the sunrise. The experience was awesome and I'm so happy I did it. Several evenings we also hiked to a section of Acadia called Otters Point. We would hike to this spot on the coast at sunset or right after and watch the stars come out. The feeling of being on the edge of the United States was exciting and surreal!



(Rebekah Maxwell received a McMaster Grant from the Honors Program to participate in the Partners in the Parks program)

I loved learning about the parks and conservation. We learned about conservation through various classroom activities during the week and even had the chance to help construct part of a trail through the park. It was so exciting to work on a trail that will be there for a very long time and will be enjoyed by so many people. I encourage anyone who is interested or has the opportunity to participate in any of the Partners in the Parks program to do so. Especially take the chance to explore the Acadia National Park in Maine any chance you get! It is a beautiful place and you will not want to leave!

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Study Abroad A Summer in Austria

Written by Lorin Kirk



This summer, I attended the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. Graz is the second largest city in Austria and has a population of about 250,000 people.

In this program, I was in the Concert Studio. I attended two voice lessons and two voice coachings per week. In these, I worked with my teachers on new music and developing better singing techniques. On top of this one-on-one instruction, I also attended a German poetry class, Lied class, Audition Training Seminar (ATS) and German daily. These classes really opened my eyes to new aspects of my music that I was already singing and to new music that I could be singing very soon. In German poetry, we broke down poems, line by line, to determine the lives of poets and also into the real underlying purposes behind the poem and its structure. In Lied class, we discussed major composers and their works. In this class, I learned so much about many composers' lives and got an eye into why their selection of poetry was important to their music in the era in which it was written. In ATS, we learned how to apply what we've learned in voice lessons and received coaching in the professional world. We discussed how to form our résumés to properly apply for the job that we want, how to get ourselves into the public eye, and how to keep up a good reputation within the small music world. My German class was so amazing. Our professor was eager to help and to see us succeed.

This program helped me to see different aspects of music that I have been missing. Not only did my German language skills develop because of my immersion into the Austrian culture, but also my appreciation for the music I had been singing. It was also such a great opportunity to develop my connections with professional musicians. Each and every one of the faculty members had already launched professional performing careers in the states, if not internationally, as well. My opportunities in AIMS were experiences of a lifetime that will help me and my professional career.

Honors Briefs



Relay for Life: The Honors Student Association won the 2009 Relay event. The 2010 Honors team captain is Lauren Alphin, who is an Honors Program student and supporter of Relay for Life.

Homecoming 2009: The HSA (Honors Student Association) won the title of most spirited organization during the basketball game. This means they topped the fraternities and sororities, among other organizations.

Lamar Ambassadors: The Lamar University Ambassadors are a group that serves as the face of the University at many public events. This year, the majority of Ambassadors are Honor Program students. This includes: Christine Felix, Matt Beaudry, Beverly Paris, Jeff Mitchell, Georgia Gilzow Patrick Greer and Dana Guy. Look for their bright red shirts at the next LU event you attend!

Let us know what YOU are doing so we can include you in our next issue of Cadenza!

Rajiv Jiani Takes 1st Place for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Poster Competition



The winner of the 2009 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Undergraduate Poster Competition was Rajiv Jiani, an LU senior from Beaumont. The competition was held November 9, 2009 at AIChE's Annual Meeting and National Student Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

Jiani's poster, entitled "An Examination of Sessile and Pendant Drop Retention Forces", was chosen from among a group of 15 in his section of *General Papers*. The overall number of 220 submissions required judges to divide them into 10 sections. Jiani stood up to some stiff competition, as there were posters submitted from prominent universities such as Harvard, Texas A&M, Oklahoma State University, and Vanderbilt, among others. Judges rewarded Jiani's hard work and inspiration by awarding him first place in his section.

Rafael Tadmor, Associate Professor of the Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical Engineering at Lamar University explains in order to win a first place award, one needs to: (1) have an interesting scientific discovery; (2) understand it inside out so that one can explain it; (3) work hard to make an esthetic and logic poster that people can relate to; (4) work hard to make a clear logic presentation that people can be convinced from. "Rajiv had all four perfect, I actually expected him to get first place," said Rafael Tadmor, who supervised Jiani's project.

What is an REU?

A REU is a Research Experience for Undergraduates. These take place during the summer at universities all over the United States. Students get the chance to work with senior professors and researchers in an area of their special interest. These programs are particularly popular in the physical science and medical fields. A REU can be a vital stepping stone in the highly competitive world faced by our graduates.

Neuromechanics REU at Northwestern University

Written by Dana Guy



This past summer, I participated in an REU called Summer Internships in Neural Engineering, or the SINE program, through the National Science Foundation. I did research at the Sensory Motor Performance Program in the Neuromechanics lab at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago from June 21-August 22, 2009. It was a partnership between the Rehab Institute and Northwestern University, but I worked in downtown Chicago a few blocks from the "Magnificent Mile", the major shopping district in the city.

My research was primarily on knees. Initially, I had to learn the anatomy of the knee. The first segment of my project was segmenting an MRI of a knee using MIMICS, a software program that lets you edit and analyze MRIs. My current major is Mechanical Engineering, and I think that biomechanics is a very interesting field.

While the REU was both challenging and rewarding, overall I had a very good experience in Chicago. I gained valuable knowledge about a field that in this area I would never learn anything about. In addition, it gave me a view into the world of research and graduate school. I would highly recommend to anyone who is interested in research to apply for an REU.

Partners in the Parks Grand Canyon Experience

By Matt Beaudry

This summer, the Honors Program granted me a scholarship that allowed me to participate in the Partners in the Parks program. I chose to partake in the program at the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Arizona.

During this, I was immersed in other curriculum besides the engineering that I have become accustomed to, including history, geology, ecology, and other fields that pertain to the issues and problems that arise in the park. However, routine college subjects were only a small fraction of the curriculum that Partners in the Parks taught. We also learned how to survive and live in a wilderness setting while reducing the negative impact that humans have on the land, and studied how past cultures in America lived here without harming the environment. Almost every night, guest speakers, including park rangers and Native Americans, visited us and answered questions we had about the Monument.



Although much learning took place, we also undertook activities such as hiking, spelunking, and rock climbing.

These experiences proved to be a marvelous way to learn about the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in a hands-on way. This was a journey that was very different from the typical college classroom experience, and I believe that it aided my undergraduate experience tremendously. I am very grateful to Dr. Dodson and the Honors Program for granting me the opportunity to participate in this experience.

Leadership Lamar Conference 2010

Four students from HSA attended Leadership Lamar Conference 2010 January 15-17, 2010. Jasmine Banks, Amanda Lilley, Luis Lopez and Beverly Paris all took part in the three-day event. LLC 2010 featured leadership exercises, breakout sessions, and a ROPES course, which included high and low rope elements.

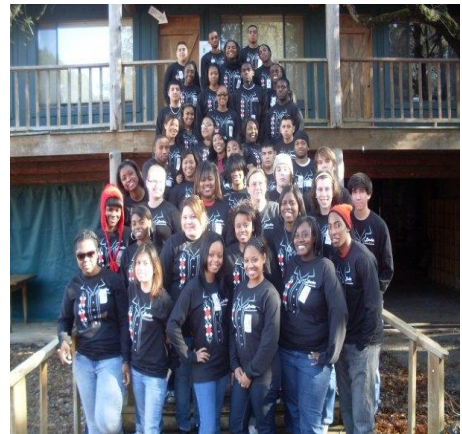
The leadership program focuses on developing personal leadership skills and provides a networking opportunity for student leaders at Lamar University. The conference provides students with the opportunity to better understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders at the university.

A total of 52 students and student directors took part in the weekend program at the T Bar M Resort and Conference Center in New Braunfels. The group participated in both indoor and outdoor skill-builders, including name

games, team exercises and group activities to help create a sense of unity among the students and enhance those leadership techniques that were the focus of the weekend.

"LLC was a great experience for me," said one of the student attendees, Jasmine Banks. "I started out a bit shy and conservative because I was not comfortable around so many people, but in the end, after all the team building exercises and self identification lessons, I became more open and adjusted quite well.

Overall LLC was a great program for individuals as well as Lamar University leadership and I am so happy that I decided to partake in it."



Achievements Recognized at the Honors Program Spring Awards Reception



2009 McMaster Honors Scholarship Recipients

- Chelsea Barnard, Port Neches-Groves
- Kelsey Crainer, Santa Fe
- Jessica Floyd, Lumberton
- Blake Hubbard, Bridge City
- Candice Montgomery, Huffman
- Long Nguyen, Beaumont
- Ethan Stewart, Beaumont
- Zia Rogers, Hamshire-Fannett
- Eric Rose, Nederland
- Holly Thompson, Little Cypress-Mauriceville

2009 Mirabeau Scholars

- Tyler Angelle, Orangefield
- Rachel Binagia, Nederland
- Grant Encalade, Bridge City
- William Fecowycz, Port Neches-Groves
- Joshua Juneau, Orangefield
- Amy Morgan, Silsbee
- Jung Mour, Lumberton
- Gwendolyn Mumford, Vidor
- Sarah Paine, Vidor
- Paul Rizk, Msgr. Kelly
- Kayleigh Romero, West Brook
- Jennifer Torry, St. John Brebeuf, B.C.
- Kathryn Vincent, West Brook
- Bradley Weatherholt, Bridge City
- LaGera White, Newton
- Jonathan Wooding, Nederland
- Christine Zabala, Homeschooled
- Zachary Zbranek, East Chambers

Honors Program Graduates

May 2009

- Jessica Byerly, Psychology
- Boone Drummond, Mechanical Engineering
- Meghan Greer, Biology
- Jill Hamilton, Mathematics
- Zachary Hansel, Mechanical Engineering
- Alice Hubbell, Biology
- Courtney King, Communication
- Caitlin Kruger, Political Science and Communication
- Erin LaGrone, Chemical Engineering
- Kalan Payne, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Amanda Pooler, English
- Kenneth Prosperie, Jr., Chemistry
- Josmery Ramirez, Music
- Matthew Ruggles, Mechanical Engineering
- Nigeria Savoy, Accounting
- Callie Stallings, Industrial Engineering
- Shanna West, Chemical Engineering

December 2009

- Aaron Bonvillion, Finance
- Christopher Jarmon, Political Science

Honors Professor of the Year for 2009-2010

Each year, members of the Honor Student Association vote for Honors Professor of the year and this year's winner was O'Brien Stanley from the Communication Department. Stanley taught Honors Film Appreciation. It was the first time this class was offered as honors credit and it turned out to be a huge success among honor students.

The Honors Student Association officially transferred authority to its new officers for 2009-10. Bethany Aiena, President; Christine Felix, Vice President; Rebekah Maxwell, Secretary; Chelsey Bromley, Treasurer; Lauren James, Historian; Daniel Whitton and Kayleigh Romero, Student Government Representatives

LAMAR UNIVERSITY



HONORS PROGRAM

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