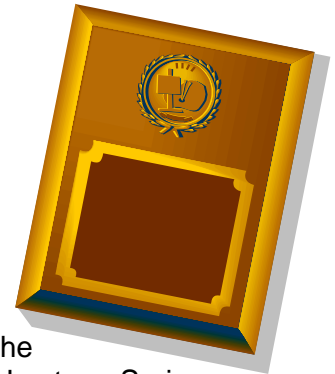


CADENZA

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAMAR  UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Fall 2010

Honors Program Sweeps Student Leadership Awards



At the 2010 Toast to Leadership Awards Program, three students from the Honors Program were awarded for their outstanding student leadership. The C. Robert Kemble Award was given to Ritchie Acosta, the Ann Shaw Award went to Bethany Aiena, and the Bess Gentry Award was presented to Georgia Gilzow. All three of these students have earned their place among the student leaders of Lamar University.

Acosta is a civil engineering major from Houston. He is a member of the Honors Student Association, the National Engineering Honor Society Tau Beta Pi, the National French Honors Society Pi Delta Phi, the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Civil Engineering Undergraduate Honors Society Chi Epsilon, where he served as vice president. He has excelled academically, being named to both the President's and Deans' Lists. He is also an ambassador for the College of Engineering at Lamar. He has volunteered with the Rotoract Club in helping to renovate the Cris Quinn Complex. He plans to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering.

Aiena is a psychology major with a minor in biology from Sour Lake. She was president of the Honors Student Association from 2009-2010 and currently serves as president of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. She is a member of the

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, a student representative for the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series committee, and a research assistant for the Psychology Department. She has been named to the President's and Deans' Lists and has volunteered for organizations such as Girl's Haven, the Southeast Texas Food Bank, and the Triangle AIDS Network. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Gilzow, a mechanical engineering and physics double-major with a minor in space science, is from Bay City. She has been active in the Society of Women Engineers, the Mechanical Engineering Honors Society Pi Tau Sigma, and the Lamar Ambassadors, serving as president in all three organizations. She is also a member of the National Engineering Honor Society Tau Beta Pi, the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and the Honors Student Association. She has volunteered with the Southeast Texas Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. In the future, she plans on working as an electrical engineer with L-3 Communications.

Also at the Toast to Leadership Awards Program, the Honors Student Association was awarded the Student Organization of the Year in the Departmental/Professional category.

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



A Message from the H.S.A. President



Phi Kappa Phi



Hey everybody! My name is Wesley Smith and I am the President of the Honors Student Association for the 2010-2011 school year. I would just like to let you know all of the great things that H.S.A is doing and can offer you. H.S.A is the

departmental organization affiliated with the Honors Program and provides honors students with many opportunities to gain the points required for honors graduation. This year is off to a great start. We are partnering with the Lamar Ambassadors and the McNair Scholars to host tailgating events for all six home games, where members of the three organizations are able to relax, socialize, and have fun before each game. H.S.A has also sponsored other events already this semester including Constitution Day and the Adopt-A-Beach cleanup at McFaddin Beach. We will also be participating in the Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Lunch with a Professor, Trick or Treat for Unicef, and the Triangle AIDS Network's annual "Paint the Town Red" this semester.

Last Spring, the Lamar chapter of the National Honors Society Phi Kappa Phi inducted fourteen honors students into its ranks. Admission is exclusively by invitation, with only the top 10 percent of seniors and the top 7.5 percent of juniors eligible for membership in this prestigious organization. Honors Program Director Dr. Kevin Dodson took over last spring as President of the Lamar Chapter from Dr. Pamela Saur, University Professor of German and English. This year's Student Vice President is Bethany Aiena, former President of the Honors Student Association.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and largest collegiate honors society, with chapters on over 300 campuses. With membership drawn from all university disciplines, its mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." To advance these goals, Phi Kappa Phi makes a variety of awards supporting graduate study, study abroad, career development, and literacy programs. Lamar honors students have been recipients of these awards in the past.

The 2010 Phi Kappa Phi inductees include Honors Program students Bethany Aiena, Christine Felix, Georgia Gilzow, Patrick Greer, Lauren James, Jordan Lemoine, Rebekah Maxwell, Garrett McLeod, Jeffery Mitchell, Kaitlynn Pate, Britnee Rodriguez, Brian Slacum, Wesley Smith, and Sarah Wion.

For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, you can visit www.phikappaphi.org.

Honors Briefs

- The Honors Student Association placed 1st among campus organizations and 2nd overall for Relay for Life
- Erin Binagia was named to the Academic All-Southland Conference Soccer First Team and to the Southland Conference Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll
- Rebekah Maxwell was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship through District 5910 of Rotary
- 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 Honors Program students. This includes: Bethany Aiena, Jasmine Banks, Matt Beaudry, Rachel Binagia, Lucas Castle, Madison Davis, Christine Felix, Patrick Greer, Dana Guy, Lauren James, Valerie Juarez, Rebekah Maxwell, Jennifer Mikel, Jeff Mitchell, Long Nguyen, Beverly Paris, Paul Rizk, Brittnee Rodriguez, Kayleigh Romero, Carly Wright, and Christine Zabala. Look for their bright red shirts at the next LU event you attend!
- Elisabeth Maxwell was named volunteer of the month by Texas Stream Team for her work at the Lower Neches Valley Authority-Neches River Basin

Partners in the Parks – Cape Hatteras, NC 2010

By Elisabeth Maxwell



When I registered to participate in the Partners in the Parks project at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, I had no idea that it would turn into one of the most memorable summer trips I've ever taken. Cape Hatteras, North Carolina is a part of the Outer Banks, which are a line of barrier islands standing between the North Carolina mainland and the Atlantic Ocean. As a National Seashore, Cape Hatteras is managed by the National Park Service, which works very hard to balance the preservation of the islands and the impact of visitors coming to enjoy the beautiful coastal environment.

The Partners in the Parks program was organized to provide an opportunity for honors students from all across the U.S. to participate in a week long project, during which the students learn about the national parks, the environment, and have an opportunity to experience new people and places.

Dr. Bill Atwill from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington was our Partners in the Parks advisor. He organized our week so that we had a chance to explore the barrier islands and learn from professors and park employees about the natural processes of the islands, the history of the area, and what makes the Outer Banks so unique. Some of the activities we did include kayaking around Pamlico Bay, visiting the Graveyard of the Atlantic museum (where we helped preserve pieces of shipwrecked timber), using seine nets to catch fish in the surf zone, learning about GPS and GIS to plot data, and visiting many historical sites around the Outer Banks, as well as much more.

Dr. Atwill worked hard to make sure that we had every opportunity to learn, however, several experiences we had were unplanned, which made them all the more special. For example one day we explored the beach and dune structure for a couple of hours and then planned to go meet with a sea turtle bio-

technician to learn about the sea turtles in the area. When we were starting to finish up our lecture at the dunes, we were surprised by a phone call inviting us to come and watch a humpback whale necropsy. A young male humpback had become stranded in the Hatteras inlet and the park service, along with several professors from across the country, were preparing to start a necropsy to collect data in hopes of discovering the reason for the stranding. We were very excited about this once in a life time opportunity and hurried to the site. We were able to watch them collect as much data as they possibly could, and were able to get up close with some of the specimens. It was amazing to see a whale up close, even though it was sad circumstances. The thing that struck me the most was that this young male humpback was quite big, 9 meters in fact, but not nearly as large as a full grown whale.

One of the things that makes the Partners in the Parks experience so outstanding is the way everyone comes together and gets to know one another. I had been camping before, but many of the participants never had, so the experience of sleeping in a tent was very new to them. We also had to cook our own meals on a camp stove. The first day we were all together, most everyone was a little shy and waiting to see what would happen. We arrived at the campground and got the tents set up, and then decided it was time for dinner. It was the challenge of camp cooking that brought the group together and helped everyone to relax and start to have a fabulous time.

Overall, it was an unforgettable experience! I made some great friends, learned some very important lessons, and enjoyed every minute in the Outer Banks. I am looking forward to the possibility of participating in another PIP project next summer, and encourage everyone who loves adventure and fun to take advantage of these exceptional opportunities.

Achievements Recognized at the Honors Program Spring Awards Reception



2010 McMaster Honors Scholarship Recipients

- Auston Barnes, Silsbee
- Joseph Blackner, Nederland
- Logan Bryant, Bridge City
- Elizabeth Files, Hamshire-Fannett
- Brittany Jannise, Hardin-Jefferson
- Melody Jordan, Port Neches-Groves
- Emily Kosh, Bridge City
- Lori Lee, Atascocita (Humble, TX)
- Paige Miller, Port Neches-Groves
- Allison Perdue, Barbers Hill
- Garrett Peters, Lumberton
- William Pickard, Nederland
- Riyadh Samad, Nederland

2010 Mirabeau Scholars

- Gabrielle Carandang, TALH
- Jonathon Dula, West Brook
- Paige Hoyt, Hardin-Jefferson
- Brandon Laird, Nederland
- Lauren Leshikar, Elkins (Missouri City, TX)
- Emily McMillon, Lumberton
- Fernando Mejia, West Brook
- Alexis Nelson, West Brook
- Sarah Saucedo, Nederland
- Ashley Smith, Central (Keller, TX)
- Bethany Stetson, Sycamore Christian
- Neha Sutrave, West Brook
- Travis Svendsen, Barbers Hill
- Daniel Ward, Lumberton
- Adam Zahradnik, Nederland

Honors Program Graduates

May 2010

- Ritchie Acosta, Civil Engineering
- Timothy Beier, Mechanical Engineering
- Erin Binagia, Biology & Pre-Vet Med.
- Ronald Bonin, Political Science
- Benjamin Cowles, Accounting & Finance
- Georgia Gilzow, Mechanical Engineering and Physics
- Brian Gustin, Electrical Engineering
- Rajiv Jaini, Chemical Engineering
- Erin LaGrone, Chemical Engineering
- Garrett McLeod, Communication
- Leah Moss, Marketing and Business
- Raul Ponce, Finance
- Roy Reed, Political Science
- Jackie Seaman, Mechanical Engineering and Physics
- Kevin Stevens, Chemical Engineering
- Ryan Thompson, Mechanical Engineering
- Joel Toutloff, Physics
- Heather Vega, Psychology
- Greg Watson, Nursing
- Laura Whitmire, Psychology
- Sophie Wilmore, Marketing
- Brittney Zenos, Nursing

December 2010

- Bethany Viator Tanner, Kinesiology

Honors Professor of the Year for 2010-2011

Each year members of the Honor Student Association vote for Honors Professor of the year, and this year's winner was Dr. Steve Zani. Dr. Zani is the Department Chair and Associate Professor of English and Modern Languages.

The Honors Student Association officially transferred authority to its new officers for 2010-11. Wesley Smith, President; Rebekah Maxwell, Vice President; Holly Thompson, Secretary; Kathryn Vincent, Treasurer; Amy Morgan, Historian; and Kayleigh Romero, Student Government Representative

May 2010 Honors Program Graduates Forms Largest Group Ever



FRONT ROW: Ryan Thompson, Sophie Wilmore, Erin Binagia, Georgia Gilzow, Brittney Zenos, Rajiv Jaini, Greg Watson
BACK ROW: Jackie Seaman, Ronald Bonin, Roy Reed, Tim Beier, Dr. Dodson, Kevin Stevens, Ritchie Acosta, Ben Cowles, Joel Toutloff, Brian Gustin
Not pictured: Garrett McLeod, Leah Moss, Raul Ponce, Heather Vega, Laura Whitmire

Top Graduates Honored

Sixteen May 2010 graduates who achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average were the recipients of the Plummer Award, which recognizes the top academic graduates of each graduating class. Four of these students were also Honors Program Graduates. They are: *(pictured above)* Erin Binagia, Brian Gustin, Ryan Thompson, and Kevin Stevens.

During the December 2010 commencement ceremony, three Lamar University graduates received the Plummer Award with one of them being Honors Program Graduate, Bethany Tanner Viator *(pictured to the right)*, who also attained a grade-point average of 4.0.



Camp Believe in Belize

By Elisabeth and Rebekah Maxwell

Several years ago, the Rotaract Club of Lamar University started an international service project to help motivate and inspire students to continue their education and provide scholarships. Starting as a soccer camp, it has grown to a leadership and team building camp. Rotaract and Rotary Clubs of District 5910 have supported 10 students through high school. Members from the Rotaract Club travel to the Chunox Village every other year to continue their involvement with students at the primary and high schools and see the scholars' progress. This year, we had the exciting opportunity to participate in the project as the Rotaract representatives to the schools and village. We traveled with our advisor, Teresa Simpson, on the most amazing trip!

Upon arriving in Belize City, we met with the St. Viator High School principal, Patti Scho, who took us to see "Old Belize" museum and Mayan temples, Altun Ha. It was a wonderful chance to learn more about the Belizean people and culture. When we arrived in Chunox Village, the scholarship recipients had planned a surprise welcome reception for us with music, food, and a whole lot of fun. We were so humbled by the hospitality of everyone. We thought we would be coming to Belize to help someone else and to affect someone else's life, but they were already changing ours.

We spent one day at the primary school, meeting teachers, touring the school, and interacting with the students. We had a variety of activities planned, including a career development activity provided by Junior Achievement of Beaumont, team building and leadership activities, and water balloon games. The students were extremely eager to learn and really fun to be around. We spent another day at the high school and working with our final seven scholarship recipients who will graduate in May 2011. St. Viator is an agricultural high school, and the students were very excited to show us their projects. We also worked with the scholarship recipients on team building and leadership activities.

At the end of the day, the high school students had an ending assembly planned where they recited poems, performed skits, played games, and thanked Rotaract and Rotary for the support. It was so moving to see their



(pictured above Elisabeth Maxwell)

hard work and excitement for the banquet. One of the most exciting events on the trip was having the entire high school participate in a water balloon toss. It was so amazing to see the students and teachers having fun and working together.

The whole experience was something we will never forget! It was so awesome to interact with students who are very eager to learn and so willing to participate in all of the activities. The Rotaract Club is now looking to providing a scholarship to help a graduating senior from St. Viator to attend junior college in Belize.

For more information about Rotaract contact Teresa Simpson at 880-8878 or Rebekah Maxwell at 880-1730. Also, check out the video about our trip at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0sb6n0zf8s>.



(pictured above Rebekah Maxwell)

Study Abroad in Europe

By Carly Wright

This summer I had the experience of a lifetime! I got to spend a month traveling through Europe studying International Marketing. I participated in this trip with a company called Forum Nexus, so the group of 80 students I travelled with came from all over the United States, Brazil, Egypt, Canada and Colombia. We met and began our studies in Barcelona, Spain. From there we travelled to France, Switzerland, Italy and Greece. In addition to my regular coursework of tests and papers, we had several professional visits to companies such as SEAT, a car manufacturer and member of the Audi group, Codorniu, top producer of Spanish



sparkling wine called “cava”, The Organization for Economic Co-Development, the United Nations and World Trade Organization, just to name a few. During these professional visits and guest speakers, I learned about brand management, the differences between European and American markets to each company, and the laws and practices of the UN and WTO. There were many things said that followed up on what I had learned in previous management courses.

I was nervous about traveling, especially since I'd never even been on a plane before, but I am now convinced that Study Abroad trips are an invaluable part of the college learning experience. Even just walking around town or ordering in a restaurant, I learned so many things about culture that can't be taught completely in a classroom. I had to push myself outside of what I'm used to and learn to read a Greek metro map, to order dinner in French (when I don't speak ANY), and figure out how much money the souvenir I had to have was actually costing me (in US dollars, that is). Everything I had the opportunity to do or see was a learning experience. I mean, there is nothing like watching the final game of the World Cup at the FIFA Fan Fest under the Eiffel Tower or getting invitations to attend the Military Parade on Bastille Day in Paris! I can hardly wait for the next opportunity I have to travel abroad.

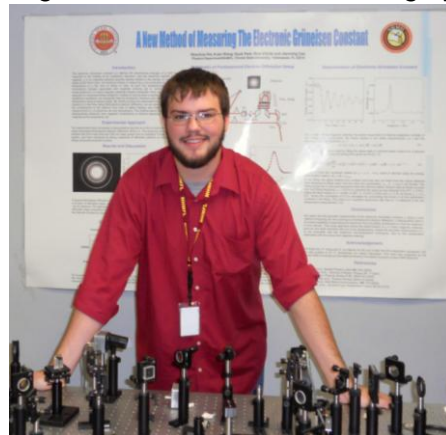
My REU Experience

By William Ware

This past summer, I participated in an REU at the National High Magnetic Fields Laboratory in Tallahassee, Florida. The REU was sponsored through the National Science Foundation in partnership with Florida State University. My mentor, Dr. Jianming “Jim” Cao and the graduate students in his research group were very supportive and fun to work with. I was specifically brought in to reprogram their outdated and non-user friendly controls for their femtosecond electron diffraction lab. For anyone who doesn't know, that just means that I played with half a million dollar lasers. The entire experience was simply incredible.

Because of the REU, I became more interested in research. When I returned to Lamar, I applied and was accepted to the physics portion of STAIRSTEP under

the direction of Dr. Christian Bahrim. My REU experience in Florida also made me more interested in graduate school. I highly recommend that anyone who is planning on going to graduate school or wants to get a feel for research apply for an REU. I will definitely apply for another REU next summer.



apply for another REU next summer.

Spotlight on Students



Honors Program students volunteer at the Adopt-a-Beach cleanup

Honors Student Association Gets Their Red On!




Dedication and grand opening of mural painted by Holly Thompson at the children's garden at Shangri La

CADENZA is the official newsletter of the Lamar University Honors Program

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