



UPDATE

May 2026

Uniting Our Honors Cardinal Community





UPDATE

May 2026

News for Honors Cardinals

Class of 2026 - Spring Commencement

Congratulations to our Reaud Honors College Graduates!

We've truly treasured being part of your journey, watching you evolve into accomplished scholars and leaders.

You've crushed an enriching and challenging program that puts you miles ahead! You're now fully charged with the high-level skills and competitive edge needed to dominate in today's world.

Rigorous training? Check. Modern skills? Check. Success? You're ready to go out there and make it happen!

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you during your time at Lamar University.

No matter where the road takes you, stay curious and keep chasing your dreams!



CLASS OF 2026: REAUD HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

- Bilal Alani: Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry Pre-Med
- Abraham Asabi: Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- Montana Di Leo: Bachelor of Business Administration in Management
- Elizabeth Drago: Bachelor of Science in Public Relations
- Andrea Figueroa: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Campbell Fuller: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Med
- Anthony Galvan: Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- Rehan Hamdan: Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry Pre-Dental
- Sydney Hees: Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language
- Alyssa Herndon: Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Pre-Physical Therapy
- Seth Kees: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- David Labouve: Bachelor of Science dual degree in Chemical Eng. & Math
- William Lang: Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity & Computer Science
- Antonio Lopez Maldonado: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
- Tiffany McDonald: Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Sergio Mendez: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Med
- Jordan Nelson: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Med
- Brandyn New: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Madelyn Reese: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Veterinary
- Clara Schreck: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Steven Sedtal: Bachelor of Science in Political Science
- Adeline Tran: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Jenny Tu: Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Pre-Physical Therapy
- Michael Vu: Bachelor of Business Admin. in Finance & Human Resource Mgmt.
- Kaylee Wales: Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Mary Wernig: Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences
- Blake Wilson: Bachelor of Business Admin. in Management Info Systems



SPRING 2026 HONORS GRADUATES ALBUM

Honors Cardinals, please join us in celebrating your friends and peers. Get inspired by each graduate's story, and discover their next steps for the future.

[Spring 2026 Honors Graduates Album](#)

Dean's Recognition - Students and Faculty

Dean Tilisa Thibodeaux is proud to announce this year's recipients of our prestigious student and faculty awards.

Honors Students of the Year

- *Leadership*: Michael Vu
- *Research and Scholarship*: Sergio Mendez
- *Community*: Jenny Tu
- *Distinguished Senior*: Campbell Fuller

Honors Professor of the Year: Dr. Martha Rinker (Assistant Professor of Psychology)

Honors Faculty of Distinction: Dr. Robert Vallin (Professor of Mathematics)

[Learn more about their accomplishments!](#)



MAKING UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

Graduates, meeting your family and friends was a joy!

Spring Reception:

Highlights: [Insta](#)
Full photos on [FB!](#)



UPDATE

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Honors Student Association

News

2026-27 HSA Exec Committee

Congratulations to our Reauid Honors student leaders who will represent their peers as the executive committee for the Honors Student Association:

President: Karim Shaaban (Chemistry Pre-Med sophomore)

Vice President: Brianna Brottem (Biology Pre-Med junior)

Secretary/Treasurer: Afifa Islam (Biology Pre-Med sophomore)

RHC SGA Senator: Kyleigh Montgomery (Political Science Legal Studies sophomore)

HSA SGA Representative: Jasmine Flores (Criminal Justice sophomore)

Intramural Sports Officers: Matthew Ard (Accounting junior) and Madison McConnell (Biology Pre-Dental sophomore)

Peer Mentor Coaches: Alyvia Ott (Early Childhood to 6 Education junior) and Taylor Vo (Chemical Engineering freshman)

Teaming Up for a Cause

Grateful for all our Honors Cardinals and HSA members who volunteered to make a difference at various SETX nonprofits during the Big Event this Spring!

Special shout-out to Big Event Director **Lizzie Drago** and Media Team Photographer **Rayna Christy**.

Honors Volunteers: Matt Ard, Natalie Bean, Taylor Bui, Veronika Castanon, Faith Cheng, Natalie Dickens, Jasmine Flores, Afifa Islam, Reese Moree, Rylee Moree, Rebecca Norwood, Alyvia Ott, Jayda Racca, Ashton Rainey, Ryan Servantes, Karim Shaaban, Dennis Tran, Riley Trent, Michael Vu, Abigayle Welch, Mary Wernig, and Blake Wilson.

[VIEW: Pics - FB / Insta](#)

Super Fun Meeting & Social

Main character energy was everywhere at HSA's final meeting. And playing yard games at our Big Summer Blowout social helped us all de-stress for finals. Had a fun time chatting with you and catching up on your summer plans.

Congratulations to HSA's Members of the Year: **Reese and Rylee Moree!**

Shout-out to our student photographers for their awesome candid pics: HSA Vice President **Bilal Alani** (meeting) and member **Jud Ripper** (social).

Thank you to all our members for an awesome year of great conversations and friendships!!!

[HSA's Final Meeting - FB / Insta](#)

[Big Summer Blowout - FB / Insta](#)

SIGN UP TO BE A PEER MENTOR
Honors Student Association
 SIGN UP TODAY!!!
 CHECK LU EMAIL FOR FORM

Be a Peer Mentor!

GIVE BACK TO HONORS:

Please check your LU email on **May 6** for an invitation from HSA's Peer Mentor coaches Alyvia and Taylor to join the mentor group for 2026-2027.

This popular program at the Reauid Honors College encourages upper-class Honors students to mentor incoming Honors first-year students on how to make the most out of their undergraduate experience.

Already know you want to be a mentor? [Sign up here!](#)



Student Recognition

Awards

Next-Level Clinical Research Earns Nursing Senior Top Honors

Congratulations to Nursing Honors Cardinal **Tyler Lewis**, who won the “Linda Richards Academic Excellence Award,” bestowed by the Dishman School of Nursing to high-achieving seniors.

Taking her academics to the next level, Tyler first immersed herself in evidence-based practice by working alongside researchers studying DNA repair mechanisms, at the Mays Cancer Center at UT Health-San Antonio.

She next studied pulmonary fibrosis and the role of the let-7 microRNA family as part of the SMART Program at Baylor College of Medicine.

She also developed leadership skills in a Nursing Simulation Lab and by creating a nursing intervention video on the prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections, both as Honors Contract projects.

Proud of you, Tyler, for seeking out nursing education and clinical experiences that will help prepare you for the responsibility of caring for patients when they need it most!

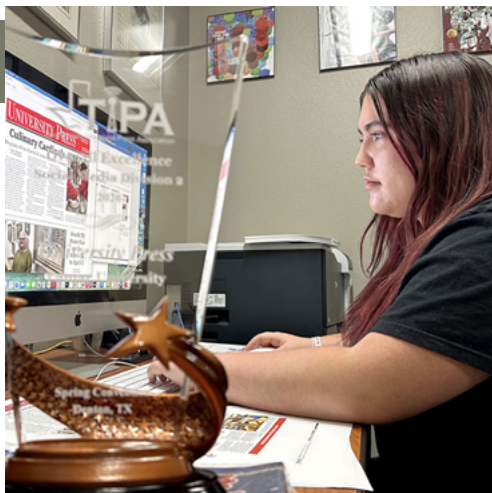
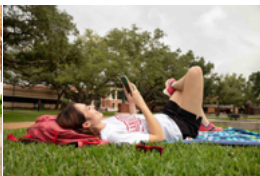


First Place Win for ChemE Car Team

Lamar’s ChemE Car Team won **FIRST PLACE** at the AIChE Southwest Regional Conference at Texas Tech in Lubbock.

Shout-out to Engineering Honors Cardinals **Szachary Tarver** and **Keaton Hamm** for contributing to the team’s winning design and construction.

Always exciting to see our students collaborate to engineer a vehicle powered and stopped exclusively by chemical reactions.



Student Media Wins for Honors Cardinals at TIPA

Under the editorial direction of Journalism junior **Rayna Christy**, LU’s student media won 32 awards at TIPA this Spring.

Shout-out to Honors Cardinal winners among those: University Press Editor **Rayna**, who earned five awards personally, including First Place for Copy Editing, and **Nataly Magana**, who earned 2nd Place for Static Ad Design with **Nancy Ryan**. Alum **Maddie Sims (Class of 2025)** was recognized for Critical Review and In-Depth Reporting.

Rayna also served as the TIPA Student Body Secretary for the statewide organization this year.

McMaster Grantees: Study Abroad and Partners in the Parks

This spring, two Honors Cardinals completed semesters abroad in Italy. This summer, four more will immerse themselves in global experiences as Study Abroad or Partners in the Parks scholars, through our college’s McMaster Honors Grants.

Semester Exchange Scholars: ITALY - **Nataly Magana** (Marketing junior) and **Melanie Trove** (Accounting junior).

Study Abroad Scholars: FRANCE – **Lea Walker** (General Business sophomore); SOUTH KOREA/JAPAN – **Macy Ostten** (Mathematics senior)

Partners in the Parks Scholars: INDIANA DUNES – **Emily Jones** (Nursing freshman); CAPITOL REEF – **Addyson Oliver** (Aquatic Biology freshman).



Student Recognition

Outstanding Senior Man

Congratulations to senior **Mohamed Irhabi** (Biology Pre-Med senior) for receiving the 2026 C. Robert Kemble Award.

Created by the Division of Student Affairs in 1981, the \$1,000 award recognizes a senior man who has demonstrated outstanding character, leadership, service, contribution, and scholarship as a student at LU.

Dr. C. Robert Kemble president of Lamar University from 1977 to 1984 and served as chancellor of the Lamar University System from 1984 to 1986.

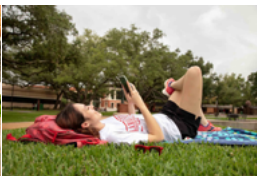


Outstanding Leadership Award

Congratulations to graduating senior **Campbell Fuller** (Biology Pre-Med) for receiving the 2026 Ann Shaw Leadership Award.

Created by the Division of Student Affairs after the death of Ann Shaw in 1998, the \$1,000 award recognizes a junior or senior student for fostering a spirit of teamwork, excellence in leadership, and exhibiting exemplary personal ethics and integrity while making significant contributions to the Lamar University community.

A long-time university employee within the Division of Student Affairs, Ann Shaw was personally responsible for the implementation of numerous student life programs and events that have become LU traditions.



Outstanding Student Organization of the Year

Congratulations to *Circle K International* for earning recognition as the 2026 Outstanding Student Organization.

President **Isabella Tran** (Biology Pre-Med junior), advised by Advisor & Success Coach **Imelda Tristan**, accepted the award at LU's annual Toast to Leadership Banquet.



Seniors of Significance

Congratulations to the following Reauid Honors seniors recognized for making a positive impact on LU campus and in their individual academic fields during their time in college:

- Bilal Alani** (Chemistry Pre-Med);
- Lizzie Drago** (Public Relations);
- Campbell Fuller** (Biology Pre-Med);
- Mohamed Irhabi** (Biology Pre-Med);
- Antonio Lopez Maldonado** (Political Science);
- Sergio Mendez** (Biology Pre-Med);
- Jordan Nelson** (Biology Pre-Med);
- Jenny Tu** (Exercise Science Pre-Physical Therapy); and
- Michael Vu** (Finance & Human Resource Management).



Student Recognition

Athletics

Dance Team National Champ Win for Honors Freshman and Sophomore

The LU Dance Team is a National Champion! Coach Dezja Brown's team delivered an outstanding performance in Orlando to come out on top as the D1 Small Hip Hop National Champion.

We are proud to recognize two Honors LU Dancers on the team: Health Sciences freshman **Reaghan Hancock** and Political Science Legal Studies sophomore **Kyleigh Montgomery**.

Each team member makes us better, and these ladies are proud of their team!

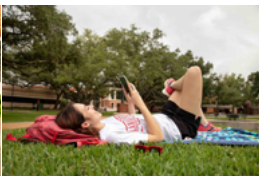


Two Honors Student-Athletes Honored at Cardinal Choice

Cardinal Choice Awards honored the accomplishments of two Honors Cardinal student-athletes this athletic season.

Graduating Management senior **Montana Di Leo**, of Women's Golf, received the prestigious Mary Gray Presidential Award. Biochemistry and Biology Pre-Med senior **Ashton Rainey**, of Cross Country, won the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Award.

Proud of all you both achieved in the competition arena, classroom, and community!



Research

Beck Fellow Elevates LU through Research Tour

A major research presentation tour is elevating LU and fostering connections among medical researchers and scientists in Texas and beyond!

Biology Pre-Med junior **Mohamed Irhabi** has thus far presented his Beck Fellowship research at a dozen conferences over the past year.

His work in retinal microvasculature is helping unlock new possibilities for early diagnosis of neurological diseases, such as migraines, Parkinson's, and multiple sclerosis—and shaping his path toward becoming a physician.

His latest presentation was at last month's Heart of Texas 2026 Conference at Baylor University.



Stock Returns Research at Scholarly Roadshow

During one week this April, Finance and Human Resource Management senior **Michael Vu** traveled to Baton Rouge, LA, and Richmond, VA, to share his research findings under mentor Dr. Jamie Kurash: Can abnormal stock returns be exploited in the energy sector through effective date delays?

His scholarly roadshow took him to LSU Discover Day and NCUR 2026.



Bugging Out at SWAP

Biology Pre-Dental junior **Natalie Dickens** was on the north shore of Lake Texoma, at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station in April to present her McNair Scholar research with Dr. Randy Yoder.

She shared her findings on turtle parasites as a poster at the Southwest Association of Parasitologists (SWAP) annual meeting.





Student Recognition

Honors Topic Inspires Criminal Justice Research for Int'l Conference

Dr. Sanaz Alasti, our 2025 Honors Faculty of Distinction, presented "Exceptional Research Achievement" awards to two students whose research she supervised during her "Perspectives on Women Who Kill" Honors Topic course this Spring: Finance junior **Humza Arfeen** and Computer Science junior **Chloe Doyle**.

Both presented their research during sessions at the 4th Annual International Conference for Justice, Resilience, and the Rule of Law, hosted by LU's Center for Death Penalty Studies.

Five Honors Cardinals also contributed as Conference Team Managers: **Adam Tsan, Kye Ana Washington, Kailyn Young, Jasmine Flores,** and **Clara Schreck**.



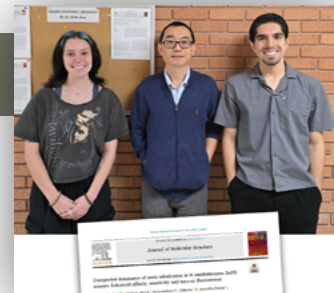
Publication for Honors Research Collab

A first publication for **Jayda Racca**, and the third for **Sergio Mendez**.

Sergio was Jayda's student mentor when she began research as part of an "Intro to Research" class. They worked together in Dr. Zhifo Guo's lab, running selectivity tests on various samples.

As a Forensic Chemistry senior, Jayda was excited to explore approaches to further enhance the performance of fluorescent probes, which are utilized to identify and visualize evidence that is otherwise invisible.

Their research collaboration led to the publication of "Unexpected dominance of meta substitution in N-amidothiourea Zn(II) sensors: Enhanced affinity, sensitivity and turn-on fluorescence" in *Journal of Molecular Structure*. This will be printed in the July 2026 edition.



Honors Engineering Graduates Present Senior Design Projects

Shout-out to our Engineering Honors Cardinals spotted at College of Engineering's Senior Design Symposium:

David Labouve: Ethylene Executions; **Abraham Asabi** and **Anthony Galvan:** Polymer Pioneers; and **Brandyn New:** 2026 LUNAR Payload-R.O.N.A.L.D.

Computer Engineering sophomore **Ayden Hicks** assisted guests navigating the symposium. He'll have a better sense of the overall experience when the time comes to present his senior design project.

What a great way to end your journey as an honors engineering graduate!



Stellar Research Presentations at OUR's Spring Expo

Honors researchers presented topics that improved the fields of physics, public health, oncology, artificial intelligence, corporate finance, teacher education, and more at this year's O.U.R. Expo.

PRESENTERS: **Kenneth Bibb, Rayna Christy, Campbell Fuller, Mohamed Irhabi, Sneha Jobby, Alyvia Ott, Karim Shaaban, Isabella Tran, Michael Vu,** and **Abigayle Welch.**

POSTER PRESENTERS: **Bilal Alani, Kelly Dougharty, Campbell Fuller, Kadence Garlington, Solinna Hong, Nirbhik Neupane, Blake Pena, Adeline Tran, Clarabelle Tran,** and **Mary Wernig.**



Student Recognition

Summer Projects from Honors SURF Fellows

This Summer 2026, two Honors Cardinals will conduct research projects as SURF Fellows:

- **Adam Tsan** (Computer Science freshman), "Small Language Model Planning for Safe Natural-Language Robot Navigation" STEM project.
- **Natalie Bean** (Nursing junior), "Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligent in Mental Healthcare" HASBSEB project.



Honors Pursuing Research as McNair Scholars

Congratulations to our two McNair Scholars who will conduct research this summer!

- **Elizabeth Diaz Arreola** (Exercise Science sophomore): "Collegiate Students' Perceptions of the Use of Home Health Devices."
- **Lea Walker** (General Business sophomore): "Which African American church denominations are associated with higher levels of voter turnout among Black congregants?"



Honors Leaders for 2026-27 LURA Research Student Org

Looking forward to next year's leadership of the student org that supports O.U.R.—LURA-Lamar Undergraduate Research Association. Honors Cardinals among the executive committee:

President: **Priya Rathore** (Biology Pre-Med senior)

Treasurer: **Saad Mohammed** (Biology Pre-Med senior)

Recruitment Director: **Natalie Bean** (Nursing junior)

Communications Director: **Kayla McKinley** (Exercise Science junior)



Leaders

Mech Eng Graduate Accepts Dream Job from Biomedical Company

First student in Mechanical Engineering's recent history to receive an offer from a biomedical company, graduating senior **Brandyn New** has accepted his dream job—from Boston Scientific!

This impressive job offer reflects Brandyn's talent and dedication, most notably working on: (1) Calorimeter designed to measure forces holding together quarks inside of neutrons, at Jefferson Lab in Newport News, VA, during summers after freshman and sophomore years; (2) New prosthetic device in Urology Division as R&D Engineer in New Product Development, during year-long co-op between junior and senior years, at Boston Scientific in Minnetonka, MN.

After he graduates, Brandyn will head to Boston Scientific to work on developing a new cardiac diagnostic device.



SGA Honors Officers Elected for 2026-27

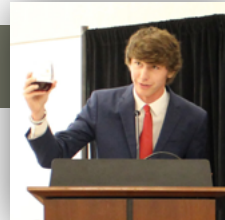
Congratulations to our Reauid Honors students elected to serve as SGA Officers for 2026-27 academic year:

President: **Carsen Barrett** (Physical Education senior)

Senior Senator: **Ashton Rainey** (Biochemistry and Biology Pre-Med senior)

RHC SGA Senator: **Kyleigh Montgomery** (Political Science Legal Studies sophomore)

HSA SGA Representative: **Jasmine Flores** (Criminal Justice sophomore)





Student Recognition

New Collab with Texas Academy for Stepping Up Civic Leadership

This Spring's kickoff of our Stepping Up Civic Leadership initiative was extra special as we launched a new collaboration. Brand new for 2026-27: Reauid Honors College students will be joined by Texas Academy seniors to provide the youth perspective on local nonprofit boards.

Our future civic leaders from the Reauid Honors College: **Brianna Edwards** (Biology Pre-Med), **Mary O'Malley** (Biology), **Madison McConnell** (Biology Pre-Dental), **Shamauria Singleton** (Nursing), and **Karim Shaaban** (Chemistry Pre-Med).

We are proud to work with our community partner Southeast Texas Nonprofit Development Center to empower the next generation of leaders.

Looking forward to helping you make a difference!



Alum Chat Highlights Relationships that Build Success

Honors Cardinals ended the year strong by discussing how playing the long game in networking can lead to credibility, opportunity, and lasting impact. Success grows from the relationships you nurture over time.

Alumnus **Joshua Davis** (Class of 2011) led the conversation and was joined by Honors students **Carsen Barrett** (Physical Education senior), **Jasmine Flores** (Criminal Justice sophomore), **Afifa Islam** (Biology Pre-Med sophomore), **Melanie Trove** (Accounting junior), and **Abigayle Welch** (Mechanical Engineering junior).



Parkinson Cert for Speech and Hearing Sciences Senior

For graduating Speech and Hearing Sciences senior **Mary Wernig**, a major highlight of the Texas Speech-Language Hearing Association convention in Fort Worth was getting the opportunity to become certified in the Parkinson Voice Project's SPEAK OUT! Therapy.



Training in this lifelong care model is shown to improve Parkinson patients' vocal quality, articulation, and swallowing function.

Mary got to attend the conference as a TSHA 2026 Student Scholar. She encourages you to keep your eye out for opportunities to attend pre-professional conferences in your field. If scholarships are available, apply!

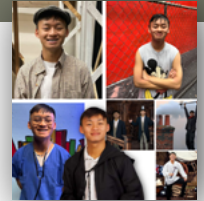
ChemE Graduate Explores Careers at NSBE Convention

Spotted in Baltimore! Chemical Engineering graduating senior **Abraham Asabi** attended the 2026 Annual National Society of Black Engineers Convention, where he networked with NSBE students and chatted with recruiters from companies that included 3M, Southern Company, Jacobs, and more.



HSA President's Message: Make Time for Fun

Making time for fun as an undergrad is something graduating senior **Michael Vu** always tries to encourage within our honors community.



No matter how busy our HSA President has been over the years—Research, Model UN, Stepping Up, HSA, SGA, Cadenza author, COB Student Advisory Council, and more—he also regularly performed at his community theatre, Port Arthur Little Theatre.

His final performance as an undergrad was as Grover in the Percy Jackson musical, "The Lightning Thief."

Collage shows some theatrical roles Michael performed all while studying Human Resource Management and Finance at LU.



UPDATE

May 2026

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Submit by May 22 -
Call for Artwork - "Bridges of Belonging"

Drop off art by 4:00 pm, Friday, May 22
Location: Dishman Art Museum
Questions? nhamilton3@lamar.edu

LU's Dishman Art Museum plans to host an art show about resiliency this June through August. Students are invited to submit artwork that explores at least one of these themes: belonging, humanity, humility, or resiliency.

The exhibition aims to showcase how we can build bridges and break down barriers through understanding and compassion.

Art Forms Accepted: Visual arts (painting, photography, collage, sculpture) and Mixed Media (art incorporating more than one medium or material).

Drop off your submissions at Dishman Art Museum by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 22.



Apply by May 30 -
ResiliencyThink Tank

Apply: thinktank@lamar.edu
Eligibility: Work-study

Think Tank internships are a valuable opportunity to integrate academic knowledge and theories into real world application.

Honors Peer **Kayla McKinley** has served as a Think Tanker.

Dr. Janeal White would love to work with you to create an innovative internship that intersects your diverse academic discipline at Lamar University with identified needs of our community regarding poverty and homelessness.

Be a part of making our community stronger!

Share Your Summer



This summer, many of you will participate in internships, research, study abroad, leadership experiences, etc.

Keep us in the loop throughout Summer 2026 by sending us pictures of you at your activity and a brief write-up. Help us showcase ***YOU!***

Your community cares about you! We love learning about your contributions—academic, leadership, research, publication, service, and more.

Sharing your story inspires others!!!

Email Honors Marketing Coordinator:
Meghan Rapp

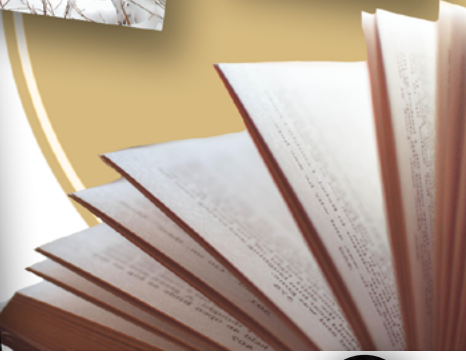
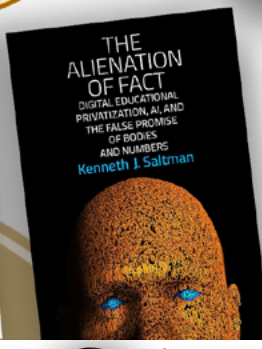
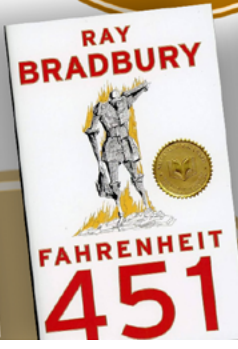
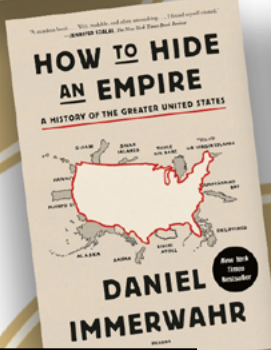
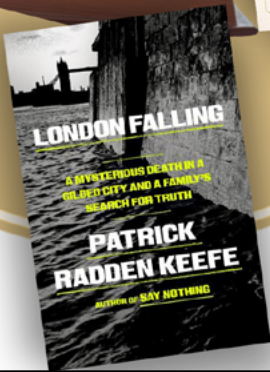
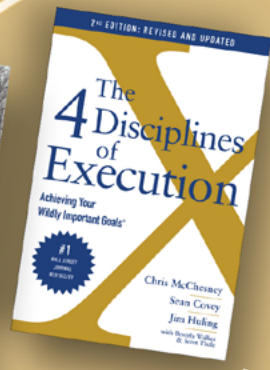
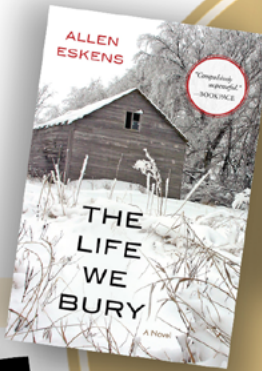


TURN THE PAGE FOR HONORS SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Stay Connected to Reaud Honors College



Lamar University 4400 MLK Blvd., PO Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas 77710



Join Summer Book Club

Sign Up By: June 30

FORM: Select Your Book Club

Honors Summer Book Club is a great way to meet other Reaud Honors College students!!!

Plus, you can count participation toward **Honors Experiences OR Non-Course Credit**, depending on your transcript.

You will need to obtain and read the book over the summer, and then discuss the book with peers in early Fall to earn credit.

The titles at the top of this year's books are linked to Amazon only to help you confirm the book you are selecting is the correct one. You may purchase your book anywhere. Enjoy your Summer Read!

The 4 Disciplines of Execution
by McChesney, Covey & Huling
Mentor: Dean Tilisa Thibodeaux



BY INVITE ONLY

Execute your most important strategic priorities through a simple, repeatable, and proven formula. By following the 4 Disciplines—Focus on the Wildly Important; Act on Lead Measures; Keep a Compelling Scoreboard; Create a Cadence of Accountability—leaders can produce breakthrough results.

London Falling
by Patrick Radden Keefe
Mentor: Dr. Nicki Michalski



A spellbinding account of a family devastated by the sudden death of their nineteen-year-old son, only to discover that he had created a secret life which drew him into the dangerous criminal underworld that lies beneath London's glittering surface.

Theo of Golden
by Allen Levi
Mentor: Ms. Sara Gubala



A stranger, Theo, arrives in Golden, and begins purchasing pencil portraits of the people of Golden hanging on the walls of the local coffeehouse. He gifts each portrait, one at a time, to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

How to Hide an Empire
by Daniel Immerwahr
Mentor: Dr. Maria Vallejo



For a country that has always denied having dreams of empire, the United States owns a lot of overseas territory. *How to Hide an Empire* tells the story of the U.S. outside the U.S.—from 19th-century conquests like Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, to the catalogue of islands, archipelagos and military bases dotted around the globe. Many are thousands of miles from the mainland; all are central to its history.

Fahrenheit 451
by Ray Bradbury
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Chadwick



This dystopian novel follows Guy Montag, a "fireman" who burns illegal books in a future American society that bans literature to eliminate uncomfortable thoughts and enforce conformity. Montag becomes disillusioned, rebels against the state, and joins an underground group of intellectuals preserving books.

The Alienation of Fact
by Kenneth J. Saltman
Mentor: Dr. Sheila Springer



Schools are increasingly reimagined as businesses, and high-stakes standardized testing and curricula, for-profit charter schools, and the rise of educational AI put capital and technology at the center of education. Saltman's book offers a critical investigation of the new digital directions of educational privatization—AI education, adaptive learning technology, biometrics, the quantification of play and social emotional learning.

The Life We Bury
by Allen Eskens
Mentor: Dr. Daniel Bartlett



College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. Joe heads to a nearby nursing home, where he meets Carl Iverson. Carl is a dying Vietnam veteran—and a convicted murderer. Soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same.



UPDATE

May 2026



Want to return to something quickly? Click on link to go directly to that topic.
Happy Reading!

NEWS

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- Dean's Recognition - Students and Faculty
- Making Unforgettable Memories - Spring Reception

HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- 2026-27 HSA Exec Committee
- Teaming Up for a Good Cause
- Super Fun Meeting & Social
- Be a Peer Mentor

STUDENT RECOGNITION

- AWARDS
- ATHLETICS
- RESEARCH
- LEADERS

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit by May 22 - Call for Artwork - "Bridges of Belonging"
- Apply by May 30 - Resiliency Think Tank
- Share Your Summer

SUMMER BOOK CLUB

- Sign Up by June 30 - Join Summer Book Club