



UPDATE

Summer 2026



HOW WE MET

Honors Summer Read



FRIENDS FROM THE BEGINNING—

Daisy Calero Estrella and Estrella Balderas met a few days before their first day of college at Lamar University, in the Honors Summer Book Club, to discuss *Empire of Pain*. They became fast friends and have gone on to win recognition as Model UN Delegates, serve as elected leaders in the Honors Student Association, and can be seen representing Cardinal Spirit together at various campus-wide events as part of the LU Ambassador family.

Although both have different career aspirations—Daisy is studying Nursing and Estrella is studying Biochemistry Pre-Dental—they have lifted each other up and shared lots of laughs along the way.

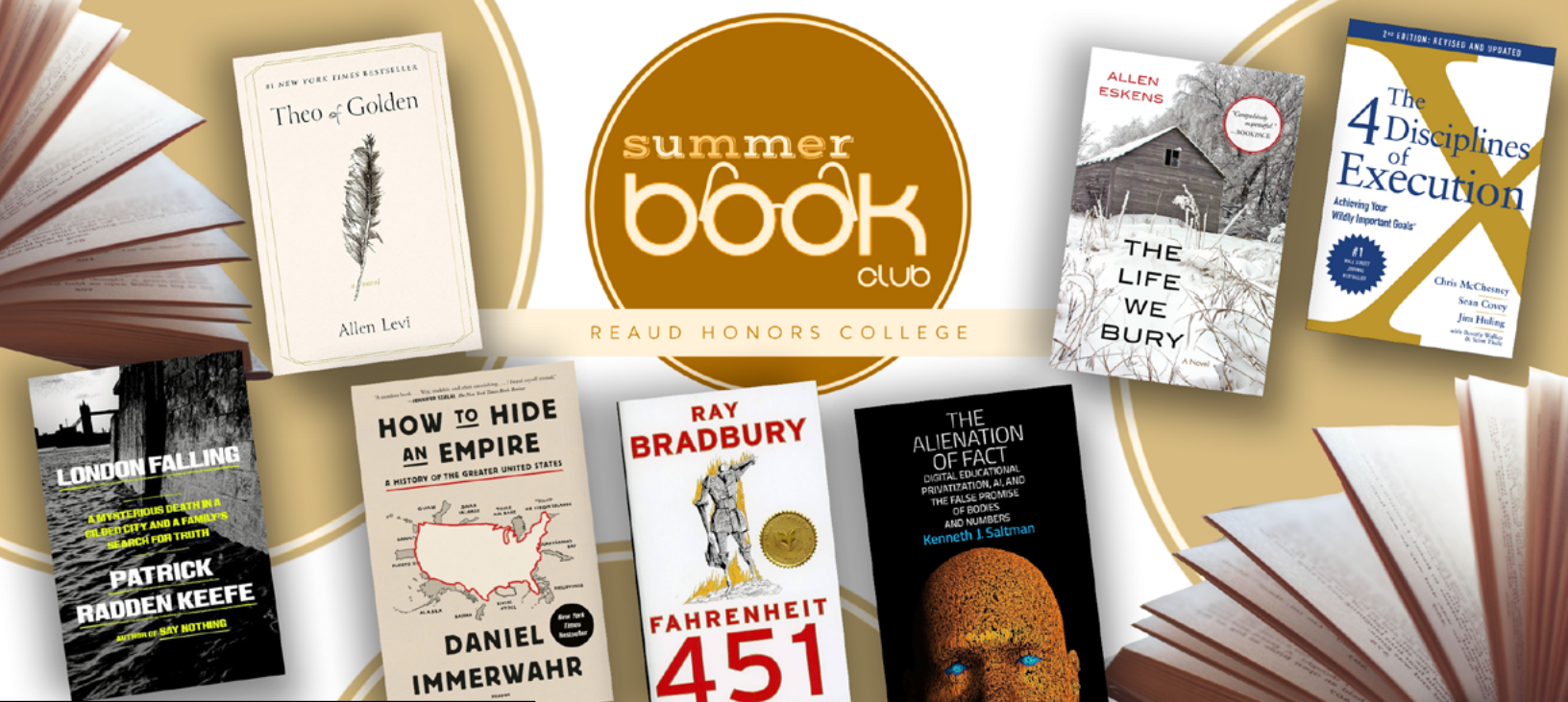
To learn more about Daisy's experience, read her story from *Cadenza* magazine in this guide.

Whether you're a brand-new student to the Reaud Honors College or a current student, you never know who you'll meet in our book clubs.

Get your read on!

CHOOSE YOUR BOOK from the following pages and **JOIN SUMMER BOOK CLUB**

**Plus: Get Paired
with a Peer Mentor!!!**



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.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY®

MEET RHC STAFF & STUDENTS

JUNE

June 16
June 18
June 20

JULY

July 14
July 16
July 18

AUGUST

August 8



Honors Advising

BEGINS

JUNE 22!

New to Honors? Let's get you registered!



WHO NEEDS TO SCHEDULE?

- ✓ New Honors Students
(Fall 2026)
- ✓ Students Transferring
into Honors

WHAT TO DO

- ✉ Check your
Lamar email
for scheduling link
- 🖱 Open your
scheduling link
and log in.
- 📅 Choose your
appointment
date and type.

⚠ **Important:**
Honors advising is
separate from your
academic/UAC
advising appointment.

Meet with Imelda!

**Honors Advisor &
Student Success Coach**
Here to help
you plan, connect,
and thrive in Honors!



SPOTS FILL QUICKLY
Schedule Early!



**SCHEDULING LINK
COMING SOON!**





UPDATE

Summer 2026

Honors Student Association *Invitation*



Transition Smoothly to College Life

GET PAIRED WITH AN HONORS PEER MENTOR!

As an HSA peer mentee, you will receive guidance, advice, and answers to questions you may have—all from someone who has been in your shoes before! Your peer mentor will support you not only during your first year, but also as you continue to grow throughout your college experience in the Reaud Honors College.

Please check your LU email for an invitation from HSA's Peer Mentor coaches Alyvia and Taylor to sign up for 2026-2027.

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

FROM PEER MENTORING TO PERU—

Amber Maredia had an idea to create a service leadership opportunity on campus...so she reached out to her HSA Peer Mentor Mackenzie Savage.

Together, they started a chapter at Lamar University for MedLife, a college student peace corps that focuses on medical and community support in impoverished places around the world.

Fast forward two years later, the pair had successfully:

- led the student chapter through a global pandemic
- earned MedLife recognition as LU's Student Org of the Year
- embarked on first service-learning trip—to Lima, Peru

That summer, the crew volunteered in free mobile medical clinics, filled up heartily on Peruvian cuisine, and went on adventures that ranged from exploring baroque churches to riding a dune buggy through the Huacachina desert so they could slide down the dunes on sandboards.

Peru marked the last "official" LU adventure for Mackenzie and Amber, yet the ties that began as peer mentor/peer mentee through HSA and the Reaud Honors College will connect them forever.

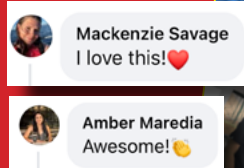
They also left behind a legacy! Honors Cardinals continue to lead mission trips through MedLife. This Summer 2026, they will volunteer in both Peru and Ecuador.

Peer Mentor bonds can be life-changing and lifelong!!!

Og Crew- 2022



2025 Summer Memories



Inside Look at Summer Read Experience!



Honors Summer Read |

Building Connections While Discussing Big Pharma

First-Year student and her mentor share their experiences in the Reaud Honors College's summer book club.

As an aspiring nurse anesthetist, I have closely followed the conversation revolving around Big Pharma, its marketing tactics and its role in the opioid epidemic ravaging the United States. *Empire of Pain*, a research-based narrative written from the perspectives of members of a prominent family in the pharmaceutical industry, was my first exposure to the history behind this critical issue.

Thanks to the Reaud Honors College's summer book club, I was introduced to what would soon become my favorite book genre while learning the extent of how professionals' failures to manage their ambitions can be detrimental to a nation.

Under the mentorship of Communication and Media professor Dr. Sheila Springer, my honors peers and I discussed the beginnings of medical marketing and deliberated on the factors that influenced Americans' struggle against opioids.

Although nobody in our book club lives like the Sackler family, the founders and owners of Purdue Pharma known for its production of the controlled substance

OxyContin, we made connections to the narrative based on what we see in our communities.

At that book club meeting held last fall, a few days before my first day of college, I met two students who would become crucial members of my support system over the next year. Because our discussion went beyond the narrative into also sharing our personal stories, we developed deep bonds of connection.

And I found a supportive mentor in Dr. Springer, who I, as a nursing major, might never have met outside of the book club.

Having just completed my first year of college, I now feel prepared to participate in discussions in my classes and to engage in self-exploration. I am eternally grateful I signed up to participate in the honors summer book club, as I gained confidence in my ability to hold my own in a room full of scholars.

—Daisy Calero Estrella

READ: Select Your Book Club

Faculty Mentor: Summer Read



"The book club helps us have an understanding of what students know and how we can tie it into your own experiences."

—Dr. Sheila Springer

THREE REASONS TO JOIN

1. You're connecting with peers prior to the semester starting. You're getting to know somebody. This allows you a comfortable and safe space to start the conversation.

2. You're meeting a faculty person, so you get an idea of how faculty interacts with students. There's a lot of differentials in between where my degree is and where you're coming in. We want to limit that distance; we want you to know that we want to talk to you on your level. We want to hear about your experiences, and we want to include those in a way that is going to help you learn.

3. The club re-sparks a love for reading that maybe has been lost for a while.

What's Next? Summer Social!



WE WANT TO HELP YOU get to know some of your Honors peers before Fall semester starts!

Keep your eye on your LU email for the invite to our Summer Social.

Held in July, this is a fun social gathering where you can mingle with other incoming Honors Cardinals and our student leaders from the Honors Student Association.

We are excited to get to know you!

July 24, 2026

Stay Connected to Reaud Honors College

