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*Enjoy Winter Break,
Honors Cardinals!*



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News for Honors Cardinals

Class of 2025 -
Fall Commencement

Congratulations to our Reaud Honors College Graduates! Working with each of you during your time at Lamar University has been an honor and a privilege. Welcome to our alumni family!

Honors community, please join us in celebrating our graduating seniors by visiting our college's [Fall 2025 Graduating Seniors album](#) on our RHC Facebook, which shares their accomplishments at LU and their next steps for the future. Get inspired by their stories for your own journey!

CLASS OF 2025: REAUD HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

Estrella Balderas: Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry Pre-Dental
Ashton Burch: Bachelor of Science in Political Science Pre-Law
Daisy Calero Estrella: Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Daniela Contreras: Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Marilyn McBride: Bachelor of Science in Physical Education Teacher Ed
McKenzie McDonald: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Vet
Linh Nguyen: Bachelor of Public Health in Healthcare Education
Dylan Pardo: Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry Pre-Med
Lyzeth Perez: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Lauren Rosetta: Bachelor of Science in Political Science Pre-Law
Pamela "Grace" Roy: Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Med
Isaac Sleeman: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Soleil Tran: Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Jason Tristan: Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Reese Turner: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design
Alyson Vu: Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry Pre-Med



Graduates: Stay connected—join our alumni group on [in](#)



REAUD HONORS GRADUATES

Be an Honors Student of the Year

Extended Deadline through Dec 31. Share your contributions in research and scholarship; leadership; and/or community! Apply for as many awards that reflect your experience as a Reaud Honors student at Lamar University.

Apply [here](#) by **Dec 31!**

Connect with Alumni

Stay connected—join our alumni group on [LinkedIN](#)! Invitations were sent to connect. If you did not receive an invitation, we were unable to locate your profile—please connect with us via [AlumNET](#).



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News for Honors Cardinals



MAKING UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

See if you were spotted at
Honors Scholars Day:

[FB](#) / [Insta](#)

HOCO Tailgate:
[FB](#) / [Insta](#)



ePortfolio - Winter Break

Winter Break is a great time to make sure you documented all the amazing experiences you participated in during Fall semester. Review your **ePortfolio** and update your entries.

Remember to include pictures and graphics to add visual appeal to your eP.

Have fun going down memory lane!

Events

Due Dec 15 -
Home for the Holidays Reminder

If you have not already, please fill out the registration form emailed to you and submit by December 15. Admissions will then notify you to pick up materials for your Home for the Holidays conversation at your former high school.

Please wear your Honors polo shirt during your visits. If you have any questions, contact Admissions.



Dec 22-Jan 2
RHC OFFICE CLOSED

We love supporting our Honors students! We hope our Honors Food for Finals helped energize you during your exams this semester. We are going to recharge too! Our staff is deeply appreciative of LU's ongoing commitment to supporting our well-being and providing a healthy work-life balance.

Our Reaud Honors College office will be closed for a holiday break from Monday, December 22 through Friday, January 2. Happy holidays, everyone!

Honors Student Association Event

Dec 10 & 13
Bicycles and Bibles Service Event

Bicycles and Bibles - HSA Service
Volunteer: Wed. Dec 10 / Sat. Dec 13
Off-campus: Ford Park

Looking forward to volunteering with our HSA peers who signed up to spread Christmas cheer this Winter Break! The annual Bicycles and Bibles event is a wonderful opportunity to give to families in need and ensure that they have a happy holiday. Depending on your volunteer day, you will assist in packing or distributing custom bags with necessities and gifts for children to enjoy. See you at Ford Park!



ON CAMPUS Get to Know Texas Leadership Scholars



Texas Leadership Scholars Priya Rathore, Rayna Christy, and Maddy Wernig share their perspectives as honors scholars in the statewide leadership program and what they look forward to in their second year!

Rayna wrote about the inaugural class of Texas Leadership Scholars in our latest issue of Cadenza, and Priya and Maddy introduced TLS at Honors Scholars Day last year. Discover their perspectives as inaugural student leaders.

[LISTEN HERE: On Campus](#)

Student Recognition

Leaders

Top Scholars and Fall Graduates Honored at Banquet

Congratulations to our Top Scholars!!! On November 12, we hosted our annual Top Scholars Banquet, honoring our Presidential Scholars, Southeast Texas Legends Scholars, and Premier Scholars. We also heartily congratulated our seniors graduating from the Reaud Honors College this Fall.

We were thrilled to celebrate each and every one of you. We appreciate all you do to encourage, uplift, and inspire our honors community.

[VIEW: Pics](#)

TOP SCHOLARS BANQUET



Peer Health Educator Promotes Health and Wellness

You've likely seen Biology Pre-Med senior **Sneha Jobby** promoting health and wellness at events around campus this Fall.

Sneha is a Peer Health Educator with Healthy Cards. Beyond sharing Project TWYN, which improves student access to hygiene kits and school supplies, at Honors Scholars Day this semester, she also chatted with peers about Healthy Habits and Suicide Prevention.



Keep your eye out for Sneha's health and wellness tips next semester. Take care of yourself, Honors Cardinals!



Carsen Barrett came into his freshman year unfocused. You may know him today as your HSA Intramural Sports Officer and founder of The Flock. Yet he wasn't always this well known. Learn about his journey.

[LISTEN to LU Moment](#)



Chatting with Future Honors Cardinals at Cardinal View

Proud of all our Honors Cardinals who represented LU at Cardinal View this Fall. Sharing your experience truly helps future students find their perfect fit!

Shout-out to: Bilal Alani, Matthew Ard, Natalie Bean, Lyric Bourgeois, Ashton Burch, Elizabeth Diaz Arreola, Faith Cheng, Spencer Cheng, Rayna Christy, Josh Florence, Campbell Fuller, Ayden Hicks, Mackenzie Howell, Peyton Jones, Madison McConnell, Jordan Nelson, Macy Ostten, Jayda Racca, Drake Rothenberger, Isaac Sleeman, Soleil Tran, Adam Tsan, Jason Tristan, Taylor Vo, Michael Vu, and Abigayle Welch.



[VIEW: Pics](#)

Social IQ Lessons at Etiquette Dinner

Remember when...Logan Morris got the party started? Lots of laughter, good times, and Social IQ development for Reaud Honors LU Ambassadors and Reaud Fellows at the Etiquette Dinner hosted by Alumni Affairs.

[VIEW: Pics](#)





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Student Recognition

Celebrating Honors International Scholars Rick and Jacob

During International Education Week, we celebrated current student Rick Van Iterson and alum Jacob Lindh.

Hailing from Leiden, The Netherlands, Rick is studying Electrical Engineering and is Vice President of the International Student Council. He aspires to work in audio engineering technology, and his favorite hobby is playing jazz music on the drums and trumpet.

Hailing from Skanor, Sweden, Jacob is a candidate to graduate Lamar University in Fall 2025 with a Master of Engineering Science in Industrial Engineering. His Master's Thesis, "The Relationship Between Anterior-Posterior Ball Position and Golf Swing Wrist Kinematics in Elite Golfers," utilizes statistical data analysis, with tools such as MS Excel and Python, to investigate sports biomechanics trends in golfers based on different golf shot types.

Learn more about [Rick](#) and [Jacob](#)!



Award

Boston Trip Leads to Top Prizes at AIChE Conference

Spotted in Beantown! Some of our Engineering Honors Cardinals traveled to Boston in November...and three won top prizes!

LU's AIChE Vice President Peyton Lee and Szachary Tarver were recognized at the conference as Best Sophomore and Best Freshman, respectively. Peyton and Ashton Moore also competed as part of the ChemE Sports team that won second in the nation!

AIChE Secretary Hailey Barlow joined her peers in representing LU in Boston.



Student Recognition

Research

Turtle Parasites, Mosquitoes, & Modern Dance Research by McNair Scholars

Had a great time learning from Natalie, Jenny, and Sergio! The trio presented their research at the McNair Scholars Research Symposium last month.

They shared the latest findings on: local studies of turtle parasites (Natalie Dickens); presence of West Nile and other arboviruses in mosquitoes in subtropical coastal Jefferson County (Sergio Mendez); and how studying modern dance movements can help prevent injuries (Jenny Tu).

Plus, we got to celebrate upcoming Fall 2025 Graduate and McNair Scholar Estrella Balderas.

[VIEW: Pics](#)



Biology Students Present Research at ABRCMS Conference

Biology senior **Sergio Mendez** and junior **Brandon Billot** traveled with Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor to share their team's research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists in San Antonio.

After analyzing results in *Aedes* and *Culex* species from 2024, Sergio, Brandon, and their research team found positive samples of mosquitoes carrying West Nile, Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika virus in Jefferson County.

Texas currently does not have a statewide mosquito control program. Brandon and Sergio hope the positive samples from their research will encourage the state to implement a year-long mosquito control program that would focus on the prevention of these infections before they become more devastating.



Award-Winning Research at O.U.R. Fall Conference

Loved seeing our Honors Cardinals presenting their research at the O.U.R. Fall Conference. Students who received top honors:

- **BEST RHC Poster:** Jayda Racca
- **BEST RHC Presentation:** Sergio Mendez
- **BEST UG-S Advanced Poster:** Ryan Servantes
- **BEST UG-S-Advanced HASBSEB Presentation:** Mackenzie Howell
- **RUNNER-UP STEM Presentation:** Sergio Mendez

FIRST PLACE Summer Research Presentation: Mohamed Irhabi

THIRD PLACE: Summer Research Presentation: Priya Rathore

We also enjoyed learning from researchers Brandon Billot, Campbell Fuller, Nirbhik Neupane, Priya Rathore, Isabella Tran, and Michael Vu.

Honors researchers' projects shared [here](#)!

2025-2026 Undergraduate Research Grantees

We look forward to learning from research conducted by our newest Undergraduate Research Grant recipients:

Bilal Alani, Kelly Dougharty, Campbell Fuller, Sneha Jobby, Nirbhik Neupane, Blake Pena, Michael Vu, Abigail Welch, and Mary Wernig.



GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

Help us showcase *YOU*!

If your contributions—academic, leadership, research, publication, service, etc.—have not been featured by us, please let us know!

Sharing your story inspires others!!!

Email Honors Marketing Coordinator:
Meghan Rapp



UPDATE

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Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Entrepreneur in Residence at LU

Curious about entrepreneurship? Whether you're thinking about starting a business, already building one, or simply want to learn what entrepreneurship is all about, the Venture Center at Lamar University is here to help.

We're excited to launch the Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Program, offering Lamar students and graduates the chance to meet one-on-one with successful entrepreneurs. Get personalized feedback on your business model, guidance on marketing, insights into funding opportunities, and help growing your network.

To learn more or schedule a session, contact Kyle Scott, Executive Director of Entrepreneurship, at kscott74@lamar.edu



Due Dec 15 -
Pulse Submissions

Pulse Literary Magazine
Submissions Due: Mon, Dec 15
Send to: pulse@lamar.edu

Get published!!! Cash prizes awarded for each category. Read over your recent creative and academic writings, or create a new work, and submit your best piece in any of the following categories: poetry, short fiction, art, scholarly essays, and literary translation.

English senior **Savanna Peveto-Kreatschman** chatted with you about it at this year's Honors Scholars Day and encourages you to submit.

Your work could be on the printed page!



Due Jan 5 - Be a State of Texas Student Regent/Representative

State of Texas Student Regent/Rep
Apply by: Monday, Jan 5 at 5:00 pm
Submit in person: Reaud Building, Office of the President, Rm 321

Play an important role in representing students of Texas public universities! State of Texas is seeking non-voting student representatives to the Texas State University System (TSUS) Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Follow instructions on this [page](#) before apply:

1. [TSUS Student Regent application](#)
2. [THECB Student Rep application](#)
3. [Governor's Appointment application](#)
(must be completed for position)

Please refer to [this website](#) for details about position responsibilities and the selection process.

Due Jan 15 – HIEP – Beck Fellowship

David J. Beck Fellowship
Apply by: Thursday, Jan 15
[Apply here](#)

David J. Beck Fellows are awarded a one-year academic scholarship and up to \$10,000 for summer research, internship, or international study. View application for eligibility.

Honors students who successfully complete their Partners in the Parks experiences can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.

Chat with your honors community for guidance! This past summer's Beck Fellow: Biology Pre-Med junior **Mohamed Irhabi**.

*You could be the next...
Beck Fellow*



Apply by
Jan. 15

UP TO \$10,000 FOR SUMMER PROJECT



DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



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Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Due Jan 18 -
Get LU Lead-Certified

Want to be an LU Lead leader next Spring? Improve your teamwork, public speaking, networking, and leadership abilities through this one-semester program that enables you to earn a leadership certification.

Open to all students, yet friendly reminder to our Texas Leadership Scholars that you should sign up for this course if you have not already taken it.

Register as an LU Course on SSB (LULD 101) by Sunday, January 18.



Scholarship Opportunities – Use Winter Break Wisely

We encourage Honors Cardinals to explore scholarship opportunities within your local communities and through online scholarship search sites. Winter Break is a great time to review scholarship opportunities, particularly as some have December deadlines.

To help you in your search, visit [RHC's Scholarships Page](#). Contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) if you have questions.



DUE Feb 1 - HIEP
McMaster Grant Partners in the Parks

McMaster Grant Partners in the Parks
DUE Sunday, February 1
[Apply here](#)

Partners in the Parks (PITP) is an outdoor experiential learning program coordinated by the National Collegiate Honors Council. A limited number of students may participate.

Honors students who successfully complete their Partners in the Parks experiences can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.

PROJECTED TRIPS:
May 15-22: Capitol Reef National Park
May 29-June 5: Appalachian Trail & Shenandoah National Parks
August 3-8: Glacier National Park
TBD: Acadia National Park

Registration is expected to open in **January 2026**. (We have no control over when registration opens.) To register and learn details about each trip, please periodically check the [PITP website](#).

You must first separately register for your trip on the [PITP website](#) and list "Lamar University" as your institution on your form.

Once you register for your trip, apply for a [McMaster Honors Grant](#) for Partners in the Parks.

When you finish applying, please email us at honor@lamar.edu with your trip details and the date you registered for your PITP trip.

*Stay Connected to
Reaud Honors College*



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