



UPDATE

September 2026

Uniting Our Honors Cardinal Community





UPDATE

September 2026

News for Honors Cardinals

NEW SEMESTER,
NEW FACES,
FUTURE FRIENDS



Welcome, Honors Cardinals, to Fall '26!

Time to catch up with old friends and make new ones!!! Welcome to your home away from home, Honors Cardinals.

As a Reaud Honors College student, you are part of a welcoming and supportive community of students from all academic disciplines at Lamar University's six undergraduate colleges. Your participation in our community brings you the benefit of the Honors Advantage that motivates you to aim higher and find your own greatness.

Our staff is available to support you. Your Reaud Honors College home is on the first floor of the Wayne A. Reaud Building, at the southeast corner of campus, on Jim Gilligan Way and Rolfe Christopher Drive—next to the intramural fields.

We encourage you to get involved and take advantage of all that college life has to offer you at Lamar University.

Looking forward to making memories with you, Honors Cardinals!



Dr. Tilisa Thibodeaux, Dean
RHC 113A; tilisa.thibodeaux@lamar.edu



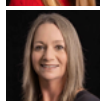
Dr. Shannon Jordan, Associate Dean
RHC113C; sjordan5@lamar.edu



Ms. Imelda Tristan, Advisor and Success Coach
RHC 108A; itristan@lamar.edu



Ms. Meghan Rapp, Marketing Coordinator
mrapp@lamar.edu



Ms. Kim Vizena, Business Manager
RHC 113; khvizena@lamar.edu

Sept 1 - First Year Honors Orientation

First Year Honors Orientation

Tuesday, September 1
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Reaud Exec Event
Center (Rm 120)

Come meet your fellow Honors classmates, connect with staff, and get all the inside scoop on resources, programs, and opportunities available to you. Expect fun activities, helpful tips for navigating your first semester, and of course—snacks. **BONUS:** We have RHC swag for you!!!



Due Sept 2 - Contracts & Petitions

REMINDER:
Honors Contracts & Petitions
Due: Wed, Sept. 2

Personalize your Honors Pathway! Earn Honors credits through Honors Contracts /Petitions. Please submit your forms no later than the 12th class day—September 2. Email your completed forms to **Ms. Kim Vizena**.



Forms and more info:
Petition for Honors Credit
Honors Contract

RHC Update Newsletter

A must-read to help **YOU** succeed as an Honors Cardinal at LU!

- **Stay updated monthly** on RHC social calendar
- **Discover growth** opportunities, services, and resources provided by:
 - Reaud Honors College (RHC)
 - Honors Student Association (HSA)
 - LU Campus partners
- **Get inspired** by Honors peers who share news and accomplishments



FREE TICKETS
Eye of God - Theatre

Eye of God - Theatre
Thurs-Sat: Sept. 10-12 & 17-19 - 7:30 pm
Sunday: Sept. 13 & 20 - 2:00 pm
Studio Theatre
Request By: 5:00 pm Friday, Sept. 4
Request Tickets Form

The man of her dreams? Hardly. A small town waitress marries an ex-convict she has been corresponding with after his release from jail. When the parole officer reveals her husband's crime, she begins to have doubts.



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News for Honors Cardinals

Sign Up NOW - Honors Scholars Day

Honors Scholars Day
Sign up NOW!
Wednesday October 14
Noon - 3:00 pm
Setzer Ballroom

Participate in our showcase of everything Honors!

Sign up to present your research or **High Impact Educational Opportunities (HIEP)** you have engaged in, or host a booth for peers to learn about projects you are doing in Honors and Honors in Major.

Examples may include but are not limited to: Partners in the Park, Stepping Up Civic Leadership, Study Abroad, O.U.R., Beck, or McNair Undergraduate Research Projects, NCHC, student organization leadership.

Your audience will be current Honors students, Honors faculty, LU Administration and faculty, and potential transfer students.

[Apply here](#) (preference will be given to early applicants).

Science Comes to Life at IC-STEM

From lava lamps to liquid nitrogen ice cream to VEX robot races, science came to life at our IC-STEM summer camp. Our college proudly cohosted this experience with the Texas Academy.

Honors Cardinals had a BLAST mentoring middle school and high school students as they explored real-world science and tech.

Lorena Tomov, Tristin Bell, and Michael Vu (Class of 2026) served as amazing camp leads. Alyssa Harper and Peyton Lee also joined in the fun, as summer interns with Valero. Our alumni industry partners included Dakota Emerson (Class of 2024), with Indorama, and Robotic Cardinals founders Ryan Shugart (Class of 2025) and Christine Osborne (Class of 2023).

VIEW: IC-STEM Highlights
[FB](#) or [Insta](#)

Summer Social Fun

Summer Social fun with our newest Honors Cardinals on July 24! Lots of laughs! Watch the highlights from our Deserted Island game. Thank you to our awesome HSA and RLI student leaders for this super fun kickoff to our new year.

WATCH: See if you're in our [video](#)!





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Student Recognition

Leaders

Future Vet Earns Prestigious USDA Veterinary Internship

Super proud of Reauid Fellow Biology Pre-Vet senior **Ryan Servantes**!

After applying for the paid internship this summer, Ryan just received the good news of his acceptance. For every year he works with US Department of Agriculture veterinarians, he will earn scholarship money toward veterinary school.

Next step for Ryan: figuring out the best veterinary school to attend!

Ryan will work with the USDA for at least five years through the Saul T. Wilson, Jr. internship program before embarking on his veterinary career.

[VIEW Ryan's compassionate animal care contributions at LU that helped lead to this milestone moment!](#)



Welcome, Newest Top Scholars

Proud to welcome our newest Presidential and Southeast Texas Legends Scholars! These distinguished students were awarded for their outstanding academic achievements, leadership skills, and dedication to future pursuits.

[MEET Newest Presidential and Southeast Texas Legends Scholars](#)



Our Next Chief Student Advocate: SGA President Carsen Barrett

Congratulations to Student Body President Carsen Barrett on his election as the 2026-27 Student Advisory Board Chair for TSUS! The election took place at the TSUS Board of Regents quarterly meeting held in Austin this summer.

Carsen has energized LU by spreading school spirit through the Flock and beyond. Now he's bound to do the same for TSUS, as he takes on the helm of a board that solves student issues on a system-wide level for TSUS's seven institutions spanning 700+ miles from West Texas to the Gulf Coast.

Governor Appoints Exercise Science Student as TSUS Student Regent

Governor Abbott appointed Reauid Fellow Elizabeth Diaz Arreola to serve as TSUS Student Regent. The Exercise Science senior's term started June 1 and will conclude in May 2027.

Elizabeth will primarily serve on the TSUS Board of Regents to represent student interests and may occasionally collaborate with the THECB to advocate for student success initiatives.



[LISTEN: 2026-27 TSUS Student Regent on LU Moment](#)



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Student Recognition

Healthcare Civic Leaders Serve at Mobile Clinics in Ecuador & Peru

The legacy continues! MedLife formed at LU thanks to a partnership between an HSA Peer Mentee and Peer Mentor.

This summer, two Honors Cardinal civic leaders expanded MedLife's service learning trips to serve in two countries.

Biology Pre-Med senior **Brianna Brottem** distributed medicine and helped build a water tank in Riobamba, Ecuador.

Biology Pre-Dental senior **Natalie Dickens** set up mobile dental clinics in underserved *pueblos jovenes* on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

Proud of you both for making a difference by improving access to healthcare for low-income families around the world.



NYC Adventure for Econ Dev Chair

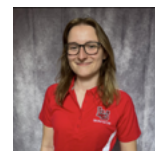
A Marketing junior, **Lea Walker** traveled to the Big Apple this Summer to represent LU's Collegiate 100 in her leadership role as Economic Development Chair. The 40th Annual national conference most inspired her sense of civic duty at the Youth Town Hall, a Women of Influence panel, and during mentorship sessions.



NSO Leaders Help Peers Find their Flock

During Welcome Week and New Student Orientations this summer, three Honors Cardinals helped students find their flock! Shout-out to New Student Orientation Leaders **Elizabeth Diaz Arreola** and **Kailyn Young**, plus alum **Michael Vu** (Class of 2026).

ADVICE: Find Your Flock



Student Recognition

Creating the First SETX Resiliency Digital Collection



Reauid Fellows **Jud Ripper** and **Matthew Ard** collaborated to create the first SETX Resiliency Digital Collection. Their project kicked off this summer

with 250 historical photos and documents in honor of our nation's 250th birthday.

Just another way Honors Cardinals think outside the box—an art, history, and journalism project gets a unique spin by students studying Accounting and Mechanical Engineering.

LISTEN: SETX Resiliency Digital Collection on *LU Moment*



Engineering Honors Cardinals Level Up as Summer Interns

Dennis Tran at ExxonMobil: Working as a Light Oils intern was the fifth and final internship for the Chemical Engineering senior before he graduates LU this year.



Clarabelle Tran at LyondellBasell: The Chemical Engineering junior worked her second term as a Process Engineer intern at the polymers plant. By supporting plant operations—using tools that include IP21, PowerBI, and Microsoft Excel—Clarabelle saw firsthand how process data is monitored, analyzed, and used for decision-making.



Layali Abusaleh at Arcwood Environmental: As a Process Safety Engineering intern, the Chemical Engineering junior supported operational excellence, process safety initiatives, and environmental compliance projects.



"Emily in Paris" Global Scholar Adventure for COB Senior

Global scholar **Lea Walker** shared her summer "Emily in Paris" adventure in La Rochelle and Paris, France, with the campus community on *LU Moment*.

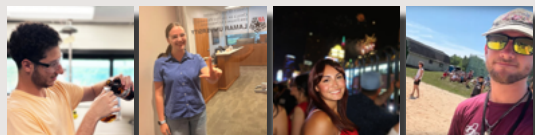
The Marketing senior also chatted about the Reauid Honors College, HSA, her dance performances at LU, connecting with alumni, and her nonprofit, Sophisticated Visionaries.

This was Lea's first time traveling out of the country—she says she would 100% go back to France!

LISTEN: Global Scholar's Summer in France, on *LU Moment*

HSA Exec's Summer Stories

Get a glimpse of what HSA officers did this summer, in addition to planning the best way to serve you and make sure you have fun this year:



- **Karim Shaaban:** Synthesized solar cells
- **Brianna Brottem:** Provided Free Mobile Healthcare in Ecuador
- **Afifa Islam:** Explored Texas
- **Kyleigh Montgomery:** New Campus Job with LU President Taylor
- **Jasmine Flores:** Vegas Study Break
- **Matt Ard:** Summer Camp Leader
- **Taylor Vo:** 409 Energy Scholar Speaker & Engineering Camp Leader



Student Recognition

Awards

Stepping Up Civic Leader Awarded for Service to Mankind

Early Childhood to 6 Education senior **Mackenzie Howell** was awarded the "Service to Mankind" Award this month by Port Arthur Sertoma Club. This is Sertoma's number one recognition award for a non-member volunteer.

Mackenzie received this prestigious honor due to her great ideas and contributions during her nonprofit service last year as a non-voting board member of the Sertoma Club through our college's Stepping Up: Civic Leadership initiative.

Every Spring, Honors Cardinals are invited to become a service leader through our unique program, which is open to all majors. So many rising stars have benefited from participating, and we are looking forward to seeing how this upcoming year's service leaders will grow and make a difference.



One of 15 Across the USA!

Congratulations to Nursing senior **Natalie Bean** for receiving this year's Board of Directors Student Scholarship from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).

This Fall, Natalie will head to APNA's 40th annual conference in Phoenix, where she will meet her fellow Nursing undergraduate BOD Student Scholars, coming from prestigious Nursing schools that include Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Yale.



TSUS Recognizes Outstanding Honors Cardinal Student and Faculty

Congratulations to **Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor**, our Honors Professor of 2024, and **Isabella Tran**, Biology Pre-Med senior, for receiving the Regents' Teacher and Regents' Student Scholar awards, respectively.

Even more fun: Dr. Kucknoor and Isabella know each other well!! Isabella serves as the Social Media Coordinator for LU's chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), which is advised by Dr. Kucknoor.



Athletics

Honors Track Star Named Indoor Student-Athlete of the Year

Way to go, **Ashton Rainey**! This summer, the Southland Conference honored the Biochemistry and Biology Pre-Med senior as Indoor Student-Athlete of the Year in Track and Field!

This is Ashton's first conference student-athlete of the year award in her career. Simply untouchable!

Student Recognition

Research

Transformative Vision Care Research in Boston by Beck Fellow

As a David J. Beck Fellow, **Sneha Jobby** conducted ocular health research to study how diabetes affects the eye. This is especially meaningful research for the Biology Pre-Optometry senior, given her family history of the disease.

Her home base this summer in Boston, Massachusetts, was the Ocular Surface Disease Lab at NECO (New England College of Optometry). She also strengthened her immunohistochemistry techniques at the Harvard Center for Biological Imaging.



Beck Fellow Conducts Cancer Health Research in Taiwan

As a David J. Beck Fellow, **Isabella Tran** conducted cancer health research to explore how engineered systems, such as mRNA-based approaches and cancer vaccines, can be used to enhance the body's immune response to disease.

Her home base this summer in Taipei, Taiwan, was Dr. Che-Ming Jack Hu's lab in Academia Sinica. She strengthened her knowledge of developing specialized cancer vaccines, culturing bacteria for TCR therapy, and creating gelatinous artificial cells.

Reminder

Best way to start Fall semester is to record your summer accomplishments while your memory of them is fresh! Turn in your High Impact Educational Practices (HIEP) / Non-Course Credit (NCC) forms:

[HIEP Form](#)

[NCC Form](#)



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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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			

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Due Sept 1 –
HIEP – Be a MUN Delegate

You Could Be a MUN Delegate
Sign Up By: Tuesday, Sept. 1
MUN Interest Form

Honors Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors:
Model United Nations is a unique opportunity offered at LU only to Reaudo Honors students, and we are putting together a team for our next competition. Completion of this amazing program counts as your HIEP.

If you are interested in growing your skills as a MUN delegate, please complete the interest form.

Honors students who successfully complete their research projects can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.



Student Success Workshops



Student Success Workshops
Thursday; Various Dates
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Setzer; rooms in lineup

Make the most out of your college experience at LU by gaining insight into student success strategies hosted by Center for Academic Success:

Sept 3: Attacking the Textbook and Taking Notes

Sept 10: Pomodoro Power: Boost Your Focus and Productivity in 25-Minute Bursts

Sept 17: Your Experiences are an Asset

Sept 24: Where Did the Time Go?
168 Hours

VISIT: [Fall 2026 Workshop Lineup](#)



Sept 11 - HIEP - OUR Kickoff Day:
Orientation and SURF Symposium

OUR Kickoff Day
Friday, September 11
OUR Orientation: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
SURF Symposium: 2:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Galloway, Landes Aud 101

Interested in conducting research and creative activities? This orientation will provide insider tips as well as teach you how to successfully apply to present at fall and spring conferences hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Honors students who successfully complete their research projects can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.

Afterwards, stay to hear honors peers Natalie Bean and Adam Tsan discuss their summer research projects!

You could be next, Honors Cardinal!

SURF 2026 Symposium
Friday, Sept. 11
2:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Landes 101 in Galloway

Introducing undergraduate research
by Reaudo Honors students:



Natalie Bean
Adam Tsan





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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

DUE Sept 27 - HIEP -
Texas Legislative Internship Program

Texas Legislative Internship Program
Apply by: Sunday, September 27
[Application Form](#)

Juniors and Seniors: Got an amazing opportunity for you! Be a Texas Legislative Intern next Spring!

You can earn 6-12 credits and get paid an intern stipend. Especially great for students interested in pursuing a career in public service. Apply by September 27!

READ about Honors Cardinals' experiences as TLIP interns on p. 19 of [Cadenza 2025](#) edition.



Apply by Oct 2 –
Seed Fund for Student Entrepreneurs

Seed Fund for Student Entrepreneurs
Apply by: Friday, October 2 at 5:00 pm
[Seed Fund Application](#)

Want to start or grow your business? Five undergraduate students have the opportunity to each earn a \$500 award to pursue a business idea.

LU's Venture Center will also match award recipients with a mentor who can offer business guidance and support during Fall semester.



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

Be a Researcher

DUE Oct 1 - HIEP - URG Grant Proposals

URG Grant Proposals
DUE Thursday, October 1
[Apply for URG Grant](#)

Interested in conducting undergraduate research in your discipline? Submit your proposal for your STEM or non-STEM research or creative activities. Grant recipients will be announced in November.

To help you prepare a successful grant proposal, attend September workshops hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research. For more details, see accompanying graphic.

Honors students who successfully complete their research projects can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.

Preparing a Successful Grant Proposal (U.R.G.)

Thurs, Sept 17:

Lit Review Workshop (2pm - 3pm)
Panel: OUR Grant Winners (3 pm - 4pm)
- Galloway, Rm 108

Wed, Sept 23:

Grant Writing Workshop (2pm - 3pm)
Panel: OUR Grant Winners (3 pm - 4pm)
- Galloway, Aud 101

Thurs, Sept 24:

AI Lit & Ethics Workshop (2pm - 3pm)
Panel: OUR Grant Winners (3 pm - 4pm)
- Galloway, Rm 108





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Honors Student Association

2026-2027 HSA EXEC COMMITTEE

President: Karim Shaaban
(Chemistry Pre-Med junior)

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

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

RHC SGA Senator: Kyleigh Montgomery
(Political Science junior)

HSA SGA Rep: Jasmine Flores
(Psychology junior)

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

Intramural Sports Officers:
Matthew Ard
(Accounting senior)
Madison McConnell
(Forensic Chemistry junior)



JOIN HSA!



Join HSA



Join HSA!

New and returning honors students: HSA is the #1 student organization all

Honors Cardinals should join!

We'd love to get to know you better and have fun with you this year. To help support our activities, please pay annual \$20 dues for the 2026-27 year [via credit card online](#) or pay cash by visiting Ms. Kim Vizena at RHC Office 113 during office hours, M-F 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. New members also get our HSA t-shirt!

The Reaudo Honors College does not charge tuition to students. These \$20 dues are collected by HSA to help us pay for friendship-building gatherings and campus experiences.

Learn more about our student org:
[HSA website](#)

Get your HSA member t-shirt!



HSA is #1 student org all Honors Cardinals should join!

Join our socials!
HSA Chat is where it's at!





UPDATE

September 2026

Honors Student Association Sports Events

Sept 9 - SIGN UP for
HSA Intramural Volleyball

**SIGN UP for HSA
Volleyball Team**

Sign Up by: Wednesday, Sept. 9
Email: Matt Ard

Sign up to be a part of our volleyball team! Please let us know by Wednesday, Sept. 9, so we can register our team. Chat with us at our first HSA meeting of the year and/or email Matt to sign up.

Also let us know if you're interested in playing soccer with us this Fall. We'll invite you to our Intramural HSA GM where we can update you on future sports to play with us.

Join us in repping HSA on the fields and courts this year!



Sept 8 - HSA's First Meeting of the Year

HSA's First Meeting of the Year
Tuesday, September 8

Lunch: 12:30 pm

Meeting: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Reauid Honors College Lounge

Come join us for our first HSA General Meeting of the semester! We'll be going over upcoming Honors College events, getting everyone caught up on what's happening this semester, and giving you a chance to meet fellow HSA members! Food will be provided! We can't wait to see you there!



Sept 16 - Peer Mentor Mixer

Peer Mentor Mixer
Wednesday, September 16
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Reauid Honors College Lounge

Saddle Up, HSA! It's time for our first Social + Peer Mentor/Mentee Mixer! Come dressed in your best western attire and get ready to:

- Meet your mentor or mentees
- Play games & have some fun
- Get to know other HSA members
- Enjoy some FREE food!

Yeehaw — we'll see y'all there!

MEET this year's Peer Mentors:
Scroll through bios starting Aug 3



Stay Connected to Reauid Honors College

