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February 2026



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UPDATE

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News

for Honors Cardinals

Welcome to Spring 2026!

Honors Cardinals, welcome back to your home away from home! We are looking forward to making more memories with you this Spring semester.

To our newest members who have transferred into the Reaud Honors College this semester, you are part of a welcoming and supportive community of students from all academic disciplines at Lamar University's six undergraduate colleges, including a brand new one that launched this Spring—College of Nursing and Health Professions. We encourage you to get involved and take advantage of all that college life has to offer you.

RHC's *Update* newsletter will continue to serve as our invitation for you to explore the many opportunities, services, and resources provided by the Reaud Honors College, the Honors Student Association, and our campus partners. Please also follow our [RHC Facebook](#) / [RHC Instagram](#) for regular updates.

We are proud to be a part of your journey, Honors Cardinals!



CLASSROOM MEMORIES

Get a glimpse of three students' Honors Contract experiences from last Fall:

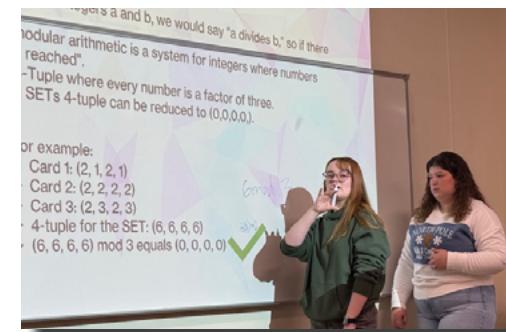
Exploring P-adic Numbers & Hidden Math in Memory
Match-type Game:
[FB](#) / [Insta](#)

Due Feb 5 -
Honors Contracts & Petitions

Submit by: Thursday, February 5
[Contract Form](#)
[Petition Form](#)

Take advantage of the opportunity to earn Honors credit in a class from your degree plan that is not ordinarily offered as Honors. If you plan on requesting any [Honors Contract](#) or [Petition for Honors Credit](#) for the Spring semester, please remember that your signed forms must be submitted to our office no later than the 12th class day, **Thursday, February 5**.

You may email your forms to Ms. Kim (khvizena@lamar.edu) or drop off at RHC 113 during regular business hours.



FREE TICKETS
Middletown

Middletown (Theatre)
Thurs, Feb 19 - Sat, Feb 21: 7:30 pm
Sunday, Feb 22: 2:00 pm
Studio Theatre
Request By: 5:00 pm Wed, Feb 11
[Request Tickets Form](#)

Go with a friend to watch this play that explores themes of connection, isolation, and the meaning found in ordinary moments. Set in a small American town, this play written by Will Eno follows the lives of an expectant mother, a handyman, a librarian, and a police officer as they navigate everyday experiences.



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for Honors Cardinals

GET PUBLISHED!
Join *Cadenza* Magazine Crew

Join by: Sunday, February 8
Email: mrapp@lamar.edu

GET PUBLISHED!!! Seeking student contributors for the 2026 edition of *Cadenza*, our college's alumni magazine. Open to all majors! The best stories often come from your passion!!!

Students who enjoy writing, telling stories, graphic art, and journalism are encouraged to join. You'll be guided throughout the process by a former national magazine editor with nearly 20 years in publishing.

See sidebar sharing last year's contributors and digital edition of the magazine. Printed copies are sent every year to Reaud Honors alumni.

Working on our alumni magazine is a unique opportunity to earn a publication credit for your portfolio and resume.

Join our *Cadenza* crew today!

PICS WANTED: Winter Break
at Your High School

Email: mrapp@lamar.edu

Honors Cardinals are invited YEAR-ROUND to introduce the Reaud Honors College to students at your former high school.

Some of you visited your high schools over Winter Break. We have received photos from some of these visits, yet we want to recognize all of you who participated. If you have not sent your photos directly to us at RHC, please email them to **Ms. Meghan**.

For those of you volunteering this Spring, please send us an email after your visit.

If you did not sign up to participate, but would like to do so in the future, email Ms. Meghan, and we'll help get you started.

Thank you for representing Reaud Honors at your high schools. Telling your story makes a BIG difference!!!



*Follow
their lead*

CADENZA 2025 AUTHORS

Super proud of all our student contributors featured in *Cadenza*, our alumni magazine:

Rayna Christy (Communication Journalism junior); Daniela Contreras (Accounting graduate); Elizabeth Diaz Arreola (Exercise Science senior); Kayla McKinley (Exercise Science junior); Saad Mohammed (Biology Pre-Med senior); Ashton Rainey (Biochemistry senior); Colton Taylor (Mathematics junior); Jenny Tu (Exercise Science senior); Michael Vu (Human Resource Management & Finance senior); and Mary Wernig (Speech and Hearing Sciences senior).

Read the [digital edition!](#)



Student Recognition

Leaders

Honors Project Brings Resources to Comm Disorder Counselors

Head into the Speech and Hearing Sciences building to view Mary Wernig's honors project that she created for SPHS 4352 Counseling in Communication Disorders, taught by Dr. Stefanie Becerril. You'll find her wall art calling out to you to take action!

"The info is very evidence based, and I love that she made resources for preservice clinicians (students) and one for clients," said Dr. Karen Whisenhunt Saar, assistant professor and licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, about Mary's project. Counseling is cool, indeed!



Poli Sci Senior in NYC for ACLU Advocacy Institute

Antonio Lopez Maldonado was back in New York City in January.

The Political Science senior participated in the ACLU Advocacy Institute, where he networked with peers and speakers on grassroots organizing, legal activism, and advocacy skills.

You sure have crisscrossed across the USA throughout your time at LU!



SGA Peers Rep LU at TSUS Board of Regents

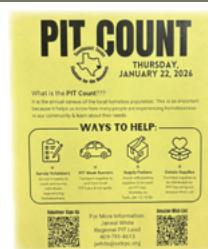
Your honors SGA peers Vice President Campbell Fuller and Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Nguyen, along with SGA President Ethan Ellis, met with the TSUS Board of Regents this Winter and will reconvene with them at LU in February to formally recognize Mohamed Irhabi as the 2025-26 TSUS Student Regent.

Think Tanker Helps Count SETX Homeless for Texas Homeless Network

Exercise Science junior Kayla McKinley was part of LU's PIT Count crew on January 22 that collected census data on homelessness in the Beaumont area for Texas Homeless Network.

Southeast Texas PIT Count leader Dr. Janeal White says this was important work because it helps bring awareness about how many people are experiencing homelessness in our community and learn about their needs.

"It was a unique and amazing experience," Kayla says. "It was cold too!"



Student Recognition

Chat Buddies Discuss Economics and Health at Honors Conversations

Shout-out to our Reaud Honors chat buddies who joined us for Honors Conversations on "Transitioning of American Economy from the 'Dot-Com Bubble' Days," hosted by Dr. John McCollough, and on "From Plagues to Policy: The History of Public Health and its Relevance Today," by Dr. Tina Kibbe last Fall.

Check out this month's growth opportunities for another conversation!

RHC Chat Buddies: Elizabeth Carrillo; Karlee Clark; Bronson Connor; Samantha Hatcher; Ayden Hicks; Afifa Islam; Shakarral Singleton; Shamauria Singleton; and Mary Wernig.



Children's Party Entertainer Connects with RHC Alum

A future physician and an advocate who helps build healthier communities were brought together this holiday season.

Over Winter Break, Biology Pre-Med senior Sergio Mendez played one of the elves with Jack & Jill Storybook Co. at Legacy Community Health's annual Pediatric Holiday Party. That experience connected him with Reaud Honors alum Joshua Davis (Class of 2011).

Sergio's work as a children's party entertainer for Jack and Jill Storybook Co. was pivotal in helping him figure out his future career. A child at one of the parties was a huge inspiration for him deciding to aim his studies at Primary Care Medicine.



Honor Society

ODK President Inducts Honors Cardinals

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) President Jordan Nelson welcomed his fellow JAMP peer Sergio Mendez and two Reaud Honors alumni, Ryan Sherer (Class of 2018) and Katey McCall (Class of 2021), into the prestigious leadership honor society this Winter.

They join LU President Dr. Jaime Taylor, who initiated into ODK in 1998 at Austin Peay State University.

Members are eligible to participate in the honor society's national opportunities, including scholarships, internships, campus grants, and leadership development programs.

VISIT: Learn more about ODK and other honor societies to consider if membership is something you'd like to pursue for your future.



UPDATE

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Student Recognition

Research

Artificial Intelligence Paper by Honors Duo Published in Journal

Congratulations to **Drake Rothenberger** and **Campbell Fuller**, whose research on artificial intelligence and business ethics was published in the December 2025 issue of *Business Education Innovation Journal*.

The paper, "Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?", explores how AI is reshaping education and decision-making, as well as the ethical questions that come with its use.

"Working on this project made me reflect on how closely these issues mirror what medicine is already navigating as AI becomes more integrated into diagnostics, training, and patient care," says Campbell, a Biology senior.

Environmental Science senior Drake says his work on this artificial intelligence project inspired his McNair Scholar research, in which he explored the implications of "Ubuntu" as an Ecophilosophy in African businesses.



**Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?
Academe's Battle for Academic Integrity**

Melissa Baldo, Lamar University-Beaumont, Texas, USA
Marlene Szwedlow, Lamar University-Beaumont, Texas, USA
McNamee-Whiting, Villary-Samuel, Lamar University-Beaumont, Texas, USA
Campbell Fuller, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, USA
Ian Rothenberger, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, USA

Keywords: academic integrity, education, artificial intelligence, ChatGPT, and ethics

ABSTRACT

The rapid development of artificial intelligence is a blessing and a curse. Our ability to access a volume of information with the click of a button has created new opportunities for every industry and person. The education industry is no exception. The use of AI in education has led to new writing, and digital tools for the classroom. As with anything new, however, there are ethical questions and consequences such as the erosion of academic integrity. This paper delves into the significance of academic integrity in education and the challenges that come with it. This paper also explores the potential negative focus on ChatGPT, and the potential use of its dangers when used as a tool for cheating. Improper usage prevents ethical students learning and growth. The use of AI in education can lead to a negative to compromise ethics in the workplace. If the goal of education is to teach students to think, question, and learn, we must come to terms with the enormous potential for it to be used as a tool to cheat. This paper also highlights the ethical wiles that are impossible to recognize.

INTRODUCTION

Academic integrity is a concept that is often taken for granted. The prevalence of cheating in students through a literature review of the use of ChatGPT in education. The use of ChatGPT in education has led to a new language model (LLM), specifically ChatGPT, as an aid in education.

KEYWORD

Academic integrity is a blessing and a curse. Our ability to access a volume of information with the click of a button has created new opportunities for every industry and person. The education industry is no exception. The use of AI in education has led to new writing, and digital tools for the classroom. As with anything new, however, there are ethical questions and consequences such as the erosion of academic integrity. This paper delves into the significance of academic integrity in education and the challenges that come with it. This paper also explores the potential negative focus on ChatGPT, and the potential use of its dangers when used as a tool for cheating. Improper usage prevents ethical students learning and growth. The use of AI in education can lead to a negative to compromise ethics in the workplace. If the goal of education is to teach students to think, question, and learn, we must come to terms with the enormous potential for it to be used as a tool to cheat. This paper also highlights the ethical wiles that are impossible to recognize.





CLASSROOM MEMORIES

Magic Tricks in Fall 2025
Honors Seminar:
[FB](#) / [Insta](#)

Board Game Fun in Immunology:
[FB](#) / [Insta](#)

Honors Food Finals Week:
[FB](#) / [Insta](#)



HONORS RESEARCH URG Kickoff Day

Friday, Jan 23

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm • Galloway, Landes 101
Featuring Reaud Honors Students:



Honors Researchers Introduce Projects at URG Kickoff

Loved seeing our Honors Cardinals introducing their research projects at OUR's Kickoff. They will be working on their projects this year as our newest Undergraduate Research Grant recipients:

Bilal Alani, Kelly Dougherty, Campbell Fuller, Sneha Jobby, Nirbhik Neupane, Blake Pena, Michael Vu, Abigayle 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

February 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Future Entrepreneurs: Get Mentor to Guide You Through Startup Process

Curious about entrepreneurship?

Thinking about starting a business, already building one, or simply want to learn what entrepreneurship is all about?

This Spring 2026, LU's Venture Center launched 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



Feb 2 - Resident Assistant Info Session

Resident Assistant Info Session

Monday, February 2

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Setzer Center Ballroom

Interested in building community, growing as a leader, and making a real impact in the residence halls? Come to our informational session to learn everything you need to know about becoming a Resident Assistant at Cardinal Village.

Feb 4 & 11 - Research Workshops

Feb 4: Compelling Paper Workshop

- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Feb 4: Grant Proposal Workshop

- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Feb 11: Literature Review Workshop

- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Feb 11: Grant Proposal Workshop

- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Workshop location: Galloway 108

Researchers, prepare for success! The Wednesday, Feb 4 workshop will provide guidance on how to write a compelling paper, such as a SURF proposal, a manuscript for an academic journal, and so forth, while the Wednesday, Feb 11 workshop will teach you the literature review process and share library resources.

You also have two opportunities to learn from student winners and mentors on how to write a successful grant proposal.



Due Feb 6 - Alternative Spring Break

Alternative Spring Break - Civic Leadership
Apply via [LU Hub](#) by 5 pm on Fri, Feb 6

Calling all Reaud Honors Civic Leaders! Spend your Spring Break volunteering to help families in need.

Only 10 students will be selected. This year's volunteers will travel from LU to San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Sunday, March 8 to Wednesday, March 11. All meals/flights will be provided, and when not volunteering, the group will vote on local excursions to enjoy together.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your civic leadership and represent RHC and LU while contributing to the well-being of underserved communities and ecological conservation.



Due Feb 8 - TBHF Scholarship

Texas Business Hall of Fame Scholarship
Apply by: Sunday, February 8

Recipients receive \$15,000 awards. Open for Texas-based students who are entrepreneurs and business leaders. Click on the "Future Texas Business Legend Scholar Awards" category on the [TBHF website](#) to view eligibility requirements and to apply.

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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire



DUE Feb 15 - HIEP
McMaster Grant Partners in the Parks

McMaster Grant Partners in the Parks

DUE Sunday, February 15

[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**.

HOW TO APPLY

You must first separately register for your trip on the **PITP website**. You need to have an NCHC account and list "Lamar University" as your institution; otherwise, your trip request will not be approved by NCHC.

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 honors@lamar.edu with your trip details and the date you registered for your PITP trip.

SUMMER 2026 TRIPS:

May 15-22:

Capitol Reef National Park

May 18-23:

Acadia National Park

May 29-June 5:

Appalachian Trail & Shenandoah National Park

August 4-7:

Indiana Dunes National Park



**Feb 17 -
Honors Conversation**

**Who's Really in Control?
The Gut Microbiome and
Human Health**
Tuesday, February 17
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm
RHC Lounge

Humans are not solitary organisms but complex partnerships with trillions of microbes living within us.

Join Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor for a conversation that will explore the gut microbiome as an "invisible organ" that influences physiology, health, and behavior, while raising broader questions about identity, agency, and the future of personalized medicine.

Earn **HIEP: Honors Experience** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**



**Feb 18 -
HIEP - Stepping Up Symposium**

HIEP - Stepping Up Symposium
Wednesday, February 18
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Reaud Event Space (Room 120)
RSVP by: Friday, February 13 via evite

Have you been asking yourself, "Where can I find my **HIEP**?"

Open to all majors, **Stepping Up** is a unique leadership initiative available only to Reaud Honors students. Immerse yourself in the nonprofit world of community service. Be the youth voice for a nonprofit board of directors during the 2026-27 academic year.

Interested? Attending the workshop is mandatory to participate in the program; please RSVP to the invitation emailed on January 30.

Honors students who successfully complete their Stepping Up experience can earn **HIEP** or, if eligible, **Non-Course Credit**.



UPDATE

February 2026

Growth Opportunities

Imagine • Innovate • Impact • Inspire

Due Feb 23 - HIEP Research
SURF Grant Proposals

HIEP - 2026 Summer Undergraduate
Research Fellowship
Apply by: Mon, Feb. 23

You could win a SURF grant and conduct research this summer! Explore your field of study in creative activities and research projects mentored by LU faculty members. Each student fellow accepted in the program will be awarded up to \$1,000 in research support and have the opportunity to present at EXPO 2027. Visit the [SURF application site](#) to learn more.

Honors students who successfully complete their research projects can earn [HIEP](#) or, if eligible, [Non-Course Credit](#).



Feb 23 -
Red Bull Basement Info Session

Red Bull Basement Info Session
Monday, February 23
4:00 pm
Hatchery (CICE 104)

Honors peer Solinna Hong invites you to compete for \$100,000 and a trip to Silicon Valley. Join her at the info session hosted by the Venture Center to learn about Red Bull Basement, a program designed to empower student innovators.

You have the opportunity to create solutions for almost any category, ranging from education to urban evolution. Red Bull will select 15 standout ideas (from teams of one-to-two students) to present at the National Final. The winning team will bring its idea to life in Silicon Valley.

Solinna has been a Uni-Focus Student Marketeer with Red Bull Basement since Fall 2023. She is excited to share this opportunity with you!



Feb 28 -
Recycle Saturday with Green Squad

Recycle Saturday with Green Squad
Saturday, February 28
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Montagne Center Parking Lot

Bring your recyclables! This semester's recycle days are the last Saturday of each month through June. If you're also interested in volunteering to help collect and sort recyclables, learn more about Green Squad by contacting your Reaud Honors peer and Green Squad President [George Godsi](#).

Due March 2 -
Be an LU Ambassador

Be an LU Ambassador
Apply by: Monday, March 2, by Noon

Become one of the friendly faces at Lamar University who promote Cardinal pride! If you have applied before and did not get selected, try again.

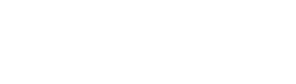
"Many people do not get in the first time," Reaud Honors Chemical Engineering alum Luke Nguyen says. "Keep trying, as it is worth it in the end."

[More details here](#). Pick up your application at the John Gray Center, Rudy C. Williams Building, Suite 102. Drop off your completed application at RHC 113.



FEBRUARY 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	1	2	3	4	5





UPDATE

February 2026

Honors Student Association

Events

Feb 3 -
HSA General Meeting

HSA General Meeting
Tuesday, February 3
Lunch: 12:30 pm
Meeting: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
RHC Lounge

Join us for HSA's first Spring 2026 meeting. We'll be talking about exciting opportunities, including the Stepping Up Civic Leaders Program and how you can get involved with writing for our college's *Cadenza* magazine. See you there!



Feb 9 -
HSA Movie Night

HSA Movie Night
Monday, February 9
6:00 pm
RHC Lounge

Join HSA for a cozy Movie Night Social with a meaningful twist! Before the movie starts, we'll be writing e-Valentine's cards for kids at St. Jude's to help spread some love this Valentine's Day. Come hang out, do something kind, and then kick back and enjoy a movie with friends.



Recognition

HSA Gives Back at Bicycles and Bibles

Our biggest service event of the year was full of heart, enthusiasm, and laughter! Nearly 50 Honors Cardinals volunteered over Winter Break at the Reaud Foundation's Bicycles and Bibles giveaway.

Grateful for all our volunteers who helped spread holiday cheer to local families in need. Together, we can do so much!

Shout-out to our volunteers: Teague Antley; Matt Ard; Estrella Balderas; Monica Becerra; Tristin Bell; Gracie Bickham; Taylor Bui; Daisy Calero Estrella; Claudia Cooper; Natalie Dickens; Montana Di Leo; Megan Do; Kelly Dougherty; Jasmine Flores; Shunichiro Futakata-Washington; Mackenzie Howell; Afifa Islam; Peyton Jones; Will Lang; Juan Lerma Sarabia; Ryan Liu; Mikel Mbajiofor; Madison McGuire; Kayla McKinley; Sergio Mendez; Rebecca Norwood; Alyvia Ott; Dylan Pardo; Grace Roy; Steven Sedtal; Karim Shaaban; Ayden Sunday; Adeline Tran; Soleil Tran; Melanie Trove; Adam Tsan; Jenny Tu; Taylor Vo; Alyson Vu; Michael Vu; Abigayle Welch; and Maddy Wernig.

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



*Stay Connected to
Reaud Honors College*

