A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Successful leaders embrace the power of teamwork by tapping into the innate strengths each person brings to the table.”


Scott Beare and Michael McMillan in the book The Power of Teamwork discuss how successful leaders empower and inspire others to accomplish stated objectives. When I think about the characteristics of leaders as described by Beare and McMillan I reflect on the great leadership of our student government members (Cynthia Lin and Luke Meyer, Co-Presidents, Emily Brown, Vice President, and Ashton Lawrence, Secretary) and our senior Captains (Skylor Matchett, Allie Valentine, Kathryn Riley, Cynthia Lin, Luke Meyer, Michelle Howard, Lydia Ford, and Emily Brown). We just completed the 14th Annual Futurism Symposium on March 3rd and 4th and each Captain and their families presented research information focusing on the future of digital media in our global society. They featured presentations on the spread of mass communication, cyber conflicts, sensory overload, dehumanization, privacy, saturation, sensationalism, and desensitization. Our Captains chose the topics, facilitated the research, submitted a prospectus, and guided their families through months of preparation that culminated in their final presentations at the symposium. The symposium provided a perfect opportunity for our leaders to “embrace the power of teamwork” and for all students to showcase their “innate strengths.” I am always thrilled to see the results of their efforts. Thank you Captains for your leadership and much appreciation to all students for your fine work and dedication to the 14th Annual Futurism Symposium.

Currently our students have provided 480 hours of community service within the first five weeks of this semester. They have done an incredible job volunteering at service organizations such as the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Charlton-Pollard Elementary School, Stable Spirits, Spindletop Museum, The Humane Society, and have also assisted local schools with the Texas Math and Science Coaches Association competitions. In the near future, many of our students will host the 2nd Annual Elementary Leadership Conference in which students from a local elementary campus will be invited to Lamar University to learn leadership skills that they can take back to their school and local community. Before the semester’s end, we plan to meet our goal of 1,040 volunteer hours.
for this semester adding to our fall 2014 count of 1070 hours served. To give over 2100 hours of service to our community is indeed invaluable and indicative of the compassionate spirit we seek to embrace at the Academy.

Our prom committee has also been working diligently to organize our 2015 Prom. Our theme is Masquerade and the event will take place April 25, 2015 at the Setzer Student Center Ballroom on the campus of Lamar University. Seniors and juniors have been planning and facilitating the event and their leadership abilities are impressive. They have fashioned a theme, raised funds, purchased materials, and have begun to gather needed items to decorate the venue. I would like to express my appreciation to those hard working students and also to any parents that have donated materials or purchased items to assist our students. Your aid is always valued.

As the semester comes to Spring Break, students should take time to relax and refresh. Upon return, focus on finishing the semester strong, keeping their eye on academic success. Moreover, juniors should begin preparing for the fall of 2015. You will be seniors soon. Seniors, reflect on your journey as TALH students, finish well, and prepare for a new academic adventure that will ultimately lead you to new intellectual challenges. Remember whatever challenges you encounter, embrace them with the same tenacity that you approached TALH and know that leadership, service, and a compassionate heart will always serve you well.

With my warmest regards,

[Signature]

**Academic Honors**

**Class of 2015**

**VALEDICTORIANS**
- Emily Brown
- Lydia Ford
- Cynthia Lin
- Chris York

**SALUTATORIANS**
- Jordyn Quirit
- Kathryn Riley

**Class of 2015**

**Fall 2014**

**PRESIDENT’S LIST**
- James Acord
- Emily Brown
- Jodi Erickson
- Lydia Ford
- Baylie Fox
- Austin Howard
- Ashton Lawrence
- Cynthia Lin
- Skylor Matchett
- Jordyn Quirit
- Kathryn Riley
- Chris York

**DEAN’S LIST**
- Yasmine Abdalh
- Michelle Howad
- Ahad Memon
- Luke Meyer
- Allie Valentine

**Class of 2016**

**Fall 2014**

**PRESIDENT’S LIST**
- Jacob Copley
- Avril Falgout
- Rebekah Folse
- Justina Jose
- Raina Jose
- Merin Joseph
- Delaney Krall
- Carmen Saleme
- Jake Sherman

**DEAN’S LIST**
- Karyn Babino
- Juana Carrillo-Cabrera
- Steven Garcia
- Elizabeth Howell
- Wrenell Ilustre
- Caroline Mahavier
- Sydney Sanders
The college acceptances and scholarship offers are still coming in. Please join us in celebrating the acceptances and scholarships that we have officially been informed of:

**James Acord**: Lamar University with an Engineering Excellence Scholarship.

**Carrington Barfield**: Lamar University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, University of San Francisco, and University of Texas at San Antonio.

**Emily Brown**: University of Texas at Austin.

**Jodi Erickson**: Austin College with a Presidential Scholarship, Lamar University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Baylie Fox**: Lamar University and The University of Texas at Dallas.

**Austin Howard**: Lamar University, Lamar University, Mary Hardin-Baylor University with Honor Scholarship, University of Missouri, and West Texas A&M University

**Michelle Howard**: Texas State University.

**Ashton Lawrence**: The University of Texas at Dallas

**Cynthia Lin**: Purdue University with a Trustees Scholarship, Texas Tech University with a Presidential Scholarship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and University of Texas at Austin.

**Skylor Matchett**: Texas State University and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with Honor Scholarship.

**Jordyn Quirit**: University of Houston.

**Kathryn Riley**: Austin College with a Dean's Scholarship, Lamar University with a Cardinal Scholarship and Residence Hall Scholarship, and St. Edward's University.

**Allie Valentine**: Lamar University and Texas A&M University.

**Christopher York**: Lamar University with a Mirabeau Presidential Scholarship.

Please send information regarding college acceptances, awards, honors, and scholarship offers to Ms. Corwin. She will forward the information to Mrs. Colichia for inclusion in our monthly newsletters and graduation program. We want to highlight your child’s achievements.
There are no classes on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. It is NOT a closed weekend. Students may stay on campus.

NEXT CLOSED WEEKEND:
April 17 - 19, 2015

We have finalized plans for TALH’s 2015 Commencement Exercises. The Academy’s ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015 in the University Theater at Lamar University. We look forward to sharing this wonderful event with you.

We will take photos of our seniors in their graduation gowns after spring break. These photos will be used in our graduation slide show, printed graduation program, and yearbook. On the right you will see the type of pose we will be doing. We ask that the boys wear a dress shirt and tie for the picture (no color preference). Our gowns are black. Girls will not wear the white collars.

Lamar University will be closed for Spring Break. All TALH students must depart by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13 and may return after 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22.

Spring Break
March 16-20, 2015
Fall 2015 Academic Advising

It’s time for Juniors to start thinking about the Fall 2015 semester. Juniors will begin meeting with Ms. Corwin and Dr. Dr. Stuberfield for advising to discuss their schedules for the fall 2015 semester after Spring Break. We always welcome parental input. Remember that each student’s graduation plan is an individual plan that is determined by the individual student’s previous courses, grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations. Our first priority is to determine the courses that remain for each student to complete our program. Electives are selected from courses required for the university core. These core courses are generally easily transferable to other universities.

All registration holds (unpaid account balances, parking tickets, etc.) must be removed before students may register for fall classes.

Prom 2015
Save the Date
Masquerade Ball
Saturday,
April 25, 2015
8:00 p.m.
Setzer Center Ballroom
Lamar University
$25 per person
$30 per person week of prom
The Future of Media and Cyber Conflict
Allie Valentine, Captain
Steven Garcia
Austin Howard
Justina Jose
Carmen Saleme

The Future of Media and Privacy
Luke Meyer, Captain
Jacob Copley
Baylie Fox
Delaney Krall

The Globalization of Information
Skylor Matchett, Captain
James Acord
Juana Carrillo-Cabrera
Elizabeth Howell
Jordyn Quirit

The Future of Media and Saturation
Michelle Howard, Captain
Rebekah Folse
Merin Joseph
Ashton Lawrence
Ahad Memon

The Future of Media and Dehumanization
Kathryn Riley, Captain
Karyn Babino
Carrington Barfield
Avril Falgout
Caroline Mahavier
Jacob Sherman

The Future of Media and Sensationalism
Lydia Ford, Captain
Jodi Erickson
Yosef Ibitayo
Wrenell Illustre
Charles Stratton

The Future of Media and Sensory Overload
Cynthia Lin, Captain
Yasmine Abdallh
Bodhi DeMolay
Raina Jose
Sydney Sanders

Featuring the Students of the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities 6:30 p.m. March 3-4, 2015
Mary and John Gray Library

The Future of Media and Desensitization
Emily Brown, Captain
Ripley Beaver
Crystal Dao
Sarah Williams
Chris York
Student Bulletin

Admissions and Financial Aid Guide Timeline

Junior Year
• Start to think about your college choices. Meet with your guidance or college counselor to discuss your academic goals.
• Take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring. High scores improve your chance of winning scholarships. You may want to take the tests again in the fall to try for a higher score.
• Request applications and brochures from your top college choices and visit their web sites.
• Visit prospective colleges over the summer. Ask college friends about their college experiences.
• Include a “financial aid safety school” which is a safety school (a college that will definitely admit you) where you could afford to attend even if you did not receive financial aid.
• Visit www.fastweb.com to find scholarships and to learn more about financial aid and paying for college.
• Consider the out-of-pocket cost (cost of attendance minus any scholarships or grants) as opposed to net cost (cost of attendance minus the financial aid package) when evaluating college costs. Net cost includes loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest, while out-of-pocket cost tells you how much the college is really going to cost you and your family. All colleges must now provide a net price calculator on their web sites. These calculators estimate the out-of-pocket cost. Some calculators may highlight a net cost figure in addition to a net price figure; don’t confuse the two. There may be differences in accuracy from college to college. Net price calculators can be used to evaluate whether a college is inside or outside the ballpark of affordability, but the results for different colleges may not be comparable.

Senior Year – Fall
• Organize applications; create files for each school you are interested in attending. List requirements and deadlines.
• If required, complete the CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE form available at profileonline.collegeboard.com.
• Retake the ACT and/or SAT to improve your score.
• Request letters of recommendation as soon as possible from teachers, counselors and community leaders (no later than one month before the application due date). Provide recommenders with a list of your accomplishments, academic achievements and your career goals.
• To save money on application fees, consider applying early action or early decision to a college where you have a good chance of being accepted early to avoid the need for a safety school.
Note: Early decision requires you to enroll at the college if admitted, while early action does not.
• Register for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov so you can complete and sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. Students and parents must have their own PIN’s. Be prepared to enter your name, Social Security number, date of birth and a challenge question.

Senior Year - Winter
• Work on your college applications. Many applications are due in late December and before early January.
• File the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after January 1. Some states and colleges have very early deadlines. Do not wait until you’ve filed your federal income tax returns or have been admitted.
• Check with your prospective schools about additional financial aid application forms, deadlines and requirements.

Senior Year - Spring
• Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for any mistakes and report them to your prospective school(s). You can also update your SAR online. You should receive your SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).
• Check email and postal mail regularly for admissions decisions (generally late March/early April); a thin envelope does not necessarily mean you are rejected.
• Compare your admissions offers. Ask your guidance counselor and parents to help you weigh your options.
• Compare your financial aid award letters based on net price at: www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml where you will find the Award Letter Comparison Tool. Find out more with the Financial Aid Award letter quick reference guide found at: www.finaid.org/ffasf/FinancialAidAwardLetters.pdf.
• Time for a decision! Most schools ask that you choose your school by May 1st, unless early decision.
• Check college’s deadlines for housing, financial aid, etc.
MONTHLY REMINDERS

- We welcome your calls. If you ever have a concern about your student or just want to keep in touch with us, please call.

- Weekend travel forms are due to Mr. Hodge by 4:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Mr. Hodge will confirm that students have permission to travel by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. Weekend travel information is distributed to TALH administrators, TALH community leaders and TALH security every Friday morning, so we ask that travel plans be finalized by Wednesday afternoon. Your help is appreciated!

- CLOSED WEEKENDS: Reminder: All students are required to vacate the dorm for closed weekends and required holidays by 4:00 p.m., Friday. Students may return after 2:00 p.m. on Sundays (or Mondays if Monday is a holiday).

- TEA VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT: The Texas Education Agency (TEA) states, “School enrollment and attendance as a condition of licensing a student to operate a motor vehicle applies to persons under 18 years of age unless a high school diploma or its equivalent has been obtained.” In order to obtain or renew student driver’s licenses, students must obtain a Verification of Enrollment form from Mrs. Colichia.

- SAT and ACT fee waivers are available. Students must meet qualifications. Please contact Ms. Corwin for more information.

- Students and parents are reminded that when applying to other colleges, both TALH and LAMAR UNIVERSITY transcripts are required. TALH transcripts may be requested by sending an email to Mrs. Colichia at: cindy.colichia@lamar.edu. Lamar University transcripts may be requested from the Lamar Records Office located in the Wimberly Building Room 112.

- Students are reminded that a two-week turnaround is required for letters of recommendation from TALH administrators. Students needing letters of recommendation must fill out a request form (available from each administrator or Mrs. Colichia) and turn it in to the administrator from whom you are requesting a recommendation, along with all pertinent information and/or attachments. Updated resumes must accompany each request. Please be courteous and ask the administrator in person PRIOR to filling out the request form.
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<td>Service forms due.</td>
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<td>Daylight Savings Time Begins</td>
<td>Prom Bake Sale</td>
<td>Community Meeting 2:15 p.m. - Lounge</td>
<td>STEM 3:15 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>Social Justice 3:45 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>Spring Break begins after classes. All TALH students must depart by 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK DORM CLOSED</td>
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TALH students are not allowed in the dorms over Spring Break. Students are encouraged to take anything of value home over the break. It is a good time to begin taking items home that you may not need for the remainder of the semester to make move out easier.
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<td>Summer and Fall 2015 class schedules available online</td>
<td>Last day to drop Summer and Fall 2015 advising begins</td>
<td>Good Friday No Classes</td>
<td>Bethany Weekend</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Karyn B. Birthday</td>
<td>Jodi E. Birthday</td>
<td>STEM Club 3:15 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>STEVEN G. Birthday</td>
<td>Summer and Fall 2015 registration begins for special populations</td>
<td>Chassidy Weekend</td>
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<td>Community Meeting 2:15 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>Community Meeting 2:15 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>Jordyn Q. Birthday</td>
<td>Summer and Fall 2015 open registration begins</td>
<td>CLOSED WEEKEND begins after classes All students must depart by 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>CLOSED WEEKEND</td>
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<td>CLOSED WEEKEND Students may return after 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Community Meeting 2:15 p.m. Lounge</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>Prom Decorating</td>
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<td>TALH Prom 8:00-11:30 Setzer Center Ballroom Zach Weekend</td>
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