



areté

The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston

Vol. 24 No. 2

Honors Students Study Abroad

Practically every college student would jump at the chance to spend a few weeks seeing Europe following spring exams. Through The Honors College's new FEET Scholarship, two UH undergraduates had the chance to do just that earlier this summer.

The Faber-Economon European Travel (FEET) Scholarship is the brainchild of two Honors alums, Hanneke Faber (BA, '90; MBA, '92) and Aris Economon (BS, '89). Now married and the proud parents of three (see photo), Hanneke and Aris currently reside in Geneva, Switzerland, where Hanneke is a general manager at Proctor & Gamble and Aris presides over his real estate development company, Paragon Development. Both had lived in and traveled throughout Europe prior to attending the University of Houston. Hanneke was a highly recruited NCAA diving champion from the Netherlands, while Aris hailed from Greek parents and had attended high school in California.

Particularly after 9/11 and all the uneasiness about traveling abroad, the founders of the scholarship were convinced that individuals cannot consider themselves well-educated without having experienced Europe firsthand. The purpose behind FEET was to introduce outstanding current Honors students to Europe and to provide the means and opportunity to explore life "across the pond." The theory was that someone might disagree with political decisions made in Europe, but once they visited Europe they would be comfortable there and ready to begin exploring the world beyond the shores of America. To do so, Hanneke and Aris spent several years refining their idea and addressed the most common

Story continued on back page

The FEET Scholarship



Top picture, top row: Michael Fernandez & Leif Bagge, bottom row: Anna, Aris, Athina, Hanneke & Ari Economon. Bottom picture, Leif Bagge & Michael Fernandez at the Coliseum.

Bauer Business Honors Program Celebrates Five Years

This year, the Bauer Business Honors Program celebrates yet another milestone as it marks its fifth anniversary as a formal program. Designed for Honors College students majoring in business, “Bauer Honors” has not only grown in numbers, but in significance as a flagship program for both The Honors College and the Bauer College of Business. To commemorate the anniversary, students were recently asked to reflect on their experiences.

A Sense of Community

Over the years, students have had the opportunity to get to know each



other at mixers, networking events, Astros games and, of course, in their honors classes. “The Bauer Honors events are priceless,” says Blake Gilson, a sophomore pre-business student. “The ‘meet-and-greets’ you attend with friends, upperclassmen, and professors really do foster connections that benefit everyone.” Another student points out the joy of learning with other students who truly care about their education and success: “It is really inspiring and encouraging,” says Randall Bell, a senior in Accounting.



A Personal Experience

With strong support for honors education from Bauer College’s

dean, Arthur Warga, Bauer Honors has grown from an idea to a team of three student staffers, two academic advisors, and faculty director Dr. Everette Gardner. The team not only helps students plan their academic careers in a meaningful way, but also adds a personal touch with phone calls, updates, and advice on a regular basis.



In addition, students who experienced being recruited by Bauer Honors prior to attending UH say that they were never made to feel lost in a sea of applicants during their college search process. “Personal phone calls helped me make my decision to join,” recalls Lindsay Roberts, a senior in Accounting. “By the time I got to campus, I felt like I already had a home in Bauer Honors, and people wanted me to be here.”

An Honors Education That Counts in the “Real World”

Since 2002, Bauer Honors has grown from offering 2-3 honors business courses per semester to around 11, with an average class size of 24. “The honors professors who genuinely care about my success make such a difference,” Bell says. “I’ve found that the smaller honors classes are challenging, but there is never a sense of being lost in the material.”



In addition, many students who have earned internships say their success is directly related to their involvement in Bauer Honors. According to Daniel Gottschalk, who has worked for ExxonMobil, Deloitte & Touche, and AIM Investments in three separate internships, the “close-knit community” helped him network and generate leads for full-time employment. Also, many students consistently say that membership made the difference in their job search. One of these is Austin Burger, a recent finance graduate now working for British Petroleum: “When I was interviewing for employment, I was grateful for my decision to join. So many other candidates had good grades and were well-rounded, but few had the honors education, experience, and preparation that The Honors College and Bauer Honors provided me.”

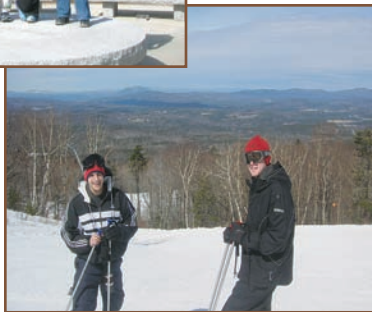
www.bauer.uh.edu/bauerhonors

Colby-Sawyer Exchange

In late March, Honors students Derek Goodwin and Rhys Forgie traveled to New London, N.H., for the second half of The Honors College's first student exchange. The exchange was coordinated with representatives from Colby-Sawyer College, a small liberal arts college nestled in the mountains of central New Hampshire. This exchange exposed students from each institution to a campus life much different from their own. Students from each school attended classes, experienced a few on-campus student events, and explored the surrounding region. Classes at Colby-Sawyer included unusual selections such as Honors Mountains and Honors Adolescent Literature, as well as more familiar classes such as the Honors Qwest. The Qwest is a class designed to start students on a journey toward self-discovery, much like The Human Situation course in The Honors College. Though one might expect the classroom environment to be altogether different at Colby-Sawyer, Derek and Rhys found the small, interactive groups of students to be very similar to those found in The Honors College.

What Derek and Rhys found outside the classroom, however, was decidedly different. The mountains and meandering roads of the New England landscape were a refreshing change from Houston's skyscrapers and superhighways. The students also visited the campuses of Dartmouth College and Harvard University, both within comfortable driving distance of the Colby-Sawyer campus. During their last full day up north, Derek and Rhys walked the Freedom Trail in Boston, seeing first-hand some of America's greatest historical sights.

After their six-day sojourn in the Northeast, Derek and Rhys returned to Houston nearly exhausted, but packed with memories. They agreed that the exchange was an incredible experience and share the hope that future Honors students will be able to take part in it. The trip also reflected how successful The Honors College has been in creating the sense of community so often found in smaller institutions: "We went half-way across the country, to a school completely different from our own, and yet the classroom environment was almost the same."



Top left picture: Derek & Rhys with Sarah Howard & Megan Ruggiero, the two members of the exchange from Colby-Sawyer. Top right picture: Ann Page Stecker, coordinator of the Honors Program at Colby-Sawyer, with Rhys & Derek. Bottom left picture: Rhys & Derek skiing at Mount Sunapee. Bottom right picture: The Colby-Sawyer library, which is comprised of two adjoining barns from the Civil War era.

HONORS STUDENTS GO SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Ten Honors College students spent four days in May in Mexico comparing the culture, geography, and urban design of Mexico City with that of Houston. The Honors students were all participants in the Honors History of Houston (HIST 3327H) seminar taught by Orson Cook.

In many ways, Mexico City was a perfect choice for comparison with Houston: it is close (less than two hours by air), relatively affordable, and it is a city rarely visited by UH students. Its strong sense of history and its emphasis on public spaces of all kinds made it an interesting contrast with Houston too. The fact that almost one-fourth of all Mexicans live in Mexico City makes the urban environment there a compelling study in the nature of urban problems and their possible solutions.

To the surprise of many, for example, the subway system in Mexico City was not only amazingly cheap (about 20 cents) but also impressively efficient. On the group's itinerary were walking tours of downtown Mexico City led by Alfonso Olvera, an Honors sophomore and native of Mexico City, and motor tours of various sites in other parts of the city.

Of particular interest were the National University, Xochimilco (the "floating gardens"), the Frida Kahlo Museum, the Anthropological Museum, and the pyramids of Teotihuacan. But there was plenty of time for shopping and nightlife too. The bodegas, street vendors, and nightclubs of the famous bohemian district, La Zona Rosa, quickly became the after-hours favorite for everybody. Even ordinary tours and lectures were riveting; a presentation on the making of Tequila (complete with multiple tastings), to cite one example, got high marks from everybody.

Plans for a second trip next May for the History of Houston class are in the works. Please contact Dr. Cook at extension 3-2454 or at cocook@uh.edu for more information.



Orson Cook, Nelda Aguilar, Marvin Itzep, Ellen Thomas, David Blystone, Jody Williams, Derek Goodwin, Dan Gerig, Kira Arter, Jonas Chin & Christy Tran

Honors students talk about Mexico City

"My fondest memory is of the pyramids of Teotihuacan. They were tough to climb, but it was a true bonding experience for the group. The reward of a little tequila afterward made it even better." —Ellen Thomas, senior

"The Zocalo (the city square) was amazing. Where in Houston could a million or more people come together to celebrate anything?" —Dan Gerig, junior

"Why can't Houston have a cheap and efficient mass transit system?" —Derek Goodwin, junior

"It's hard to get used to 16th and 17th century buildings on every corner." —Christy Tran, junior

"I left my heart in the Zona Rosa." —Kira Arter, senior

"I want to come back soon; there's so much left that we didn't see." —Nelda Aguilar, senior

"Are there really floating beer boats at Xochimilco (the 'floating gardens')? Cool!" —Jodie Williams, senior

Common Ground 2007

This summer, The Honors College once again hosted the Common Ground Teachers Institute, a professional development program for English teachers from secondary schools in the greater-Houston area. Dr. Bill Monroe, The Honors College executive associate dean, has directed the program since its inception in 1989. For two weeks in June, teachers met in seminars led by faculty members and explored the American literary tradition by reading and discussing both classic works from the traditional “canon” and significant works by minority writers.

Dr. Monroe’s seminar, “Family Functions and Dysfunctions,” reexamined the role of families in our individual formation and communal lives. Readings included short stories by Flannery O’Connor and Raymond Carver, poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks and Lorenzo Thomas, and novels by Lan Samantha Chang and Cormac McCarthy. Dr. Eliza-

beth Brown-Guillory led a seminar on “The Many Faces of Love in American Women’s Writing” that explored depictions of platonic, erotic, and familial love in works by Zora Neale Hurston, Amy Tan, Terry McMillan, Alice Walker, and Denise Chavez. Finally, in the seminar “The Price of Freedom,” Dr. Romanus Muoneke of the University of St. Thomas led discussions of Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, Henrik Ibsen, John Fowles, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie that focused on quests for, abuses of, and costs of freedom.

After their morning seminars, teachers met for lunch and enjoyed readings by local poets and writers, including Jericho Brown, Bob Phillips, Ad-die Tsai, Peter Hyland, John Harvey, and Ted and Sybil Estess. Teachers who complete the program receive 30 hours of credit towards Gifted/Talented certification, as well as welcomed revitalization for the coming school year.



Pictures of 2007 Common Ground participants.



Jericho Brown and Dean Ted Estess both spoke at the closing ceremony.



William Monroe (Director), seminar leader Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Stacey Peebles (Asst. Director), and seminar leader Romanus Muoneke

Honors College Graduation: May 2007

Over 300 guests attended the Honors College Graduation banquet held at The Houstonian Hotel, Health Club & Spa on Friday, May 11th, 2007. Of the 134 Honors College graduates, many are on their way to medical school, law school, and graduate school at top-flight institutions, whereas others are beginning exciting new positions or taking a year to travel the world before embarking on their careers. That evening, however, many students took a moment to reflect on how The Honors College community has shaped their undergraduate careers.



“I consider myself a ‘numbers’ person, but I enjoyed my liberal arts classes very much.

I believe they helped me develop my analytical skills. The Honors College has been exceptionally valuable for me and has set the foundation for my future accomplishments.”

—**Gunan Aslanova B.A., Finance**



“I leave The Honors College knowing that I have connected with some of the best students

and faculty at UH. Knowing that I am one of those students who pursued a more rigorous undergraduate curriculum gives me a great deal of hope and confidence in my future.”

—**Amanda Barnett B.A., English**



“The Honors College provides an intimate intellectual enclave that buoys the spirit and

stimulates the soul. The outstanding professors and knowledgeable staff members make each member of The Honors College feel welcome. All these factors are vital within such a large academic community as UH.”

—**Cory Angert B.B.A., Management**

“I have made my best friends and memories through The Honors College. I would never have imagined



my college career to be as rewarding as it has been.”

—**Sara Keeton B.S., Psychology**



“I absolutely loved my time with The Honors College. The Honors pro-

fessors really care about the students and reach out to them. I felt like I learned more about society, culture, and philosophy by being a member of The Honors College. I had so much fun, and wish that others could have the same opportunities that I did.”

—**Jennifer Gajan B.S., Biology & Biochemistry**

Public Square & Honors Announcements

The Honors College has the privilege of hosting a variety of poets, writers, historians, political theorists, artists, and professionals in the Houston area for the university. The "Public Square" highlights some of the lecturers that have visited our college within the last year.

PUBLIC SQUARE

Mary Oliver: Pulitzer Prize winning poet Mary Oliver lectured to the campus community on April 16th, in affiliation with UH's Inprint-Brown Reading Series.

Phyllis Bennis: Ms. Bennis, the director of The New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., lectured on the war in Iraq on February 22nd.

Kristin Brinkman Kemper & Charles Kemper: The world-class, musical couple gave a recital on January 25th. Kristin is a spring '89 Honors alumnist.



Kristin Brinkman Kemper

Rufus Cormier: As part of the African American Student Honors Association's "Changes in Black America Speaker Series," Rufus Cormier lectured on November 14th. Mr. Cormier is a highly regarded lawyer with Baker Botts in Houston.

Raymond Kurzweil: Farfel lecturer Ray Kurzweil spoke on innovations in technology and computer science at the Estess Library on April 5th.

HONORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Bao: We bid David Bao farewell, and wish him the best as he begins his new position this fall as Chair of the Department of Mathematics at San Francisco State University. David taught "Bao-calculus" for The Honors College for 22 years and will be sorely missed.

Helen Hattab: Helen was awarded two fellowships this year, one from the Scaliger Institute at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, and one from the Folger Library in Washington D.C., to research the influence of 16th and 17th century scientists and philosophers on Descartes' mechanistic philosophy.

Christine LeVeaux: Congratulations to Christine, honors political science faculty member, and her

husband Sean, on the new addition to their family. Nina Theleona Haley was born on April 13th, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz.

William Monroe & Helen Valier: William & Helen received the \$25,000 Faculty Development Initiative Program (FDIP) to be used for developing the Program for Medicine and Society in Houston at The Honors College.

WELCOME Jeremy Bailey, Natalie Culp & Steven DiMattei: Jeremy Bailey joins us this fall as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and The Honors College. Political theorists Natalie Culp, from Boston College, and Steven DiMattei, from Cornell University, join our faculty as Human Situation instructors in the fall.

Edith Dugas: Welcome to Edith, the newest member of the Honors staff. She will be supporting the director of development in coordinating events and also assisting the deans of the college.



Ted Estess, Rufus Cormier, Andrae Evans and Lucia Guillory

HONORS STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Irene Kwan ~ Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China

(see picture on right taken by Irene of Chinese opera)

Major: Communications-Media Production; Minor: Chinese; graduates in May 2008

I received a full scholarship through UH's Chinese Program to study abroad in China for one semester. Since Beijing is the capital of China, I thought it would be the most culturally enriching place in China and the best place to learn Chinese. Through this experience, I quickly grasped my strengths and weaknesses and learned the importance of having patience, especially when dealing with less-than-agreeable situations and people. As Eric Hansen has so beautifully said, "Traveling allows you the opportunity to recapture a feeling of wonder, innocence, and youth; and depending on how vulnerable you are willing to become, it can also deliver a profound experience of unreality that can rattle your most basic beliefs."



Sylvie Novotny ~ Glasgow University in Glasgow, Scotland

Major: Creative Writing; Minor: Business; graduates in '09 or '10

I chose to study abroad in Scotland because I desired to see something other than my own hometown and wanted to learn to grow as an adult. A year abroad allows you enough time to truly make good friends. However, for a student who has not left home before, it can also be overwhelming. It's important to consider the cost of living, especially with foreign exchange rates. I highly recommend that students go abroad in order to meet new people and begin to feel connected.



Sylvie in Scotland

Talia Gaetke ~ University of Angers, ESTHUA (their tourism program) in Angers, Pays de Loire, France

Major: Hotel and Restaurant Management; Terry Scholar; graduates in May 2008

Studying abroad taught me how to be independent in my thinking, traveling, and daily life. I now have a much greater appreciation for what international students are going through or anyone in the U.S. who does not speak English. I was surprised to discover what an impact the U.S. has on every other country, but disappointed to learn that most students in Europe know more about U.S. news and politics than we do.

To future travelers, I suggest starting your application process to study abroad early! Because it is a slow and tedious process, you'll need time to get a visa, a passport, and to apply for scholarships. Research how you want to travel before you go (it is cheaper to buy Eurail passes in the states), and make sure you know how to read a metro map and a bus map before boarding your plane. Flexibility is the key and will lead to far less disappointment.



Background is a page from Mike Fernandez's travel journal.

Talia Gaetke (middle) with friends in front of Notre Dame Cathedral.

HONORS STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

James Cox ~ Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France (see picture on left of James and his friends in front of Champs Elysees)

Major: Logistics Technology & Entrepreneurship;

Minors: French & Math; graduates in spring 2010

I chose to study abroad in France to attain a better understanding of the French culture and language. I received a stipend from The Honors College, and scholarships from the Urban Experience Program and the International Education Fee Scholarship Program to fund the experience.

I learned that I knew more French than I had originally thought! Even though my host mother did not speak any English at all, I was able to speak, understand, and respond to her. Being immersed in the culture in this way gave me a better understanding of the culture and an ear for the language. In learning a new language, I suggest preparing yourself by knowing the phonetics of the language, which will improve your ear. Keep a record of your experiences with pictures and journal entries. The best way to maximize your learning experience is by immersing yourself in the culture and only speaking the language you are learning while you're there.



James in front of Château de Chambord

Salma Nassef ~ American University in Cairo, Egypt (see two pictures on left)

Major: Biology; Minor: International Areas Studies (IAS); graduates in May 2009

I chose to study in Cairo because I wanted to improve my ability to speak Arabic. At one point, I was buying little snacks and fruit from a kiosk on the street and the total came to 11 LE (Egyptian pounds). Looking in my purse, I found that I only had seven LE. The street vendor told me to take the goods and pay him everything tomorrow. When I tried to give him the seven LE, he refused and told me I should use the money to take a taxi home. That everyday act of kindness is what made me appreciate the lifestyle I experienced in Egypt.

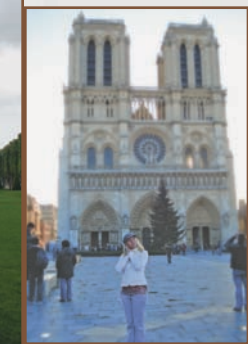


Salma Nassef with friends in Egypt

Mary Guirguis ~ Universität Leipzig in Leipzig, Germany

Majors: Biology & German; graduates in May 2009; will study abroad in fall 2007

Having studied German for many years, I felt it was the time to experience Germany and its culture for myself, beyond the books and the classes which have always intrigued and fascinated me. The University of Houston / Universität Leipzig Exchange program will allow me to immerse myself in the German culture and lifestyle by living and studying in Leipzig. In addition, having been the home of Bach and Goethe among many others, the city of Leipzig is one of Germany's most unique and historical cities, making it improbable to find a more perfect way to enjoy a full taste of what Germany has to offer.



Friends in front of Eiffel Tower in France.

BELGACEM LIÈS BAGHDADI 1972-2007



Belgacem Liès Baghdadi, age 35, passed away on Friday, March 23, 2007. Liès, as he was known to all, was a man who loved the world and the people of the world.

Born in Mostaganem, Algeria, he attended elementary and junior high school at The Patch School in Houston and at the International School in Bethiouna and the Lycée Pasteur in Oran, Algeria. After returning to the U.S., he attended Alief Hastings High School, where he was a junior varsity and varsity basketball player, and graduated with honors in 1989.

Liès received his Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering, graduating Magna Cum Laude and with membership in The Honors College, from the University of Houston in 1995. He spent most of his professional life in the field of fluid flow simulation software, and traveled extensively to France, the United Kingdom, and China. Liès's interests were many and varied. Outside work, he was an accomplished guitarist, as well as a songwriter and singer, managing bands here in Houston and recently becoming involved in DJ-ing and film making.

His passing is mourned by his mother Joyce Baghdadi, his grandmother Kay Hersey, his sister Louiza Deskin and her husband Wes, Wes's parents Annie and Gary, all from Houston, his father Mohamed and stepmother Keltoum Baghdadi of Oran, Algeria, his aunt Lynda and cousin Amy Hersey of the Woodlands, his many aunts, uncles, and cousins in France and Algeria, and the many people whose lives he touched in Houston, throughout the U.S., and all over the world, from France, Germany, and the United Kingdom to China, Japan, and India.

Liès was looking forward to many changes this year. He had recently taken a new job in a young company founded by a University of Houston pal, in a totally new discipline: petroleum reservoir and production engineering, where he was the Director of Operations for France, Italy, and North Africa. He also had plans to visit his father and stepmother in Oran this summer, and anticipated the continuation of his open-mic and DJ career.

Liès was a humanist and an altruist. He fervently believed in a variety of world-encompassing causes, all involving concern for others' peace, the poor, the homeless, our planet, and all its peoples.

His family and his multitudes of friends throughout the world will remember Liès as a very sociable person—optimistic, enthusiastic, whimsical, charming and captivating, and very seriously idealistic, a lover of people and “people reading.”

At 6'5", he was a big man, with a big heart. Liès was a humanist and an altruist. He fervently believed in a variety of world-encompassing causes, all involving concern for others' peace, the poor, the homeless, our planet, and all its peoples. As it was so well put by a colleague at his new job, “Liès wanted a perfect world, and he is now in the most perfect of all.” Please, instead of sending flowers, help keep Liès's dreams alive by contributing to or investing in local food banks, homeless services, and alternative energy sources. A celebration of Liès's life was held on April 5, 2007 in Houston.

Originally published in the Houston Chronicle.

NOTES FROM DEVELOPMENT

It's hard to believe summer is over! It has been a fantastic year for the Development Office in Honors this year. A series of events culminated with a highly successful Great Conversation on March 28th, 2007. With 26 faculty conversationalists and 250 guests, The Honors College volunteers and staff raised over \$225,000 in support of our programs and scholarships — **WOW!** Faculty conversationalists arrived prepared to discuss everything from wine to war and anything in between. Guests enjoyed themselves and many stayed late to continue conversing. On behalf of the Advisory Board, students, staff and faculty, we would like to express a sincere note of appreciation to **Mr. Jeff Dodd** and **Mr. Michael P. Jackson** for serving as the 2007 Great Conversation Co-Chairs and to **Mr. Michael Gapinski** and **Mr. Trey Wilkinson** for their efforts to increase and encourage alumni participation.



Two pictures from Great Conversation on March 28th, 2007. Above: Dean Ted Estess, Jane Cizik, and Jeff Dodd. Below: Trey Wilkinson, Dean Ted Estess and Michael Gapinski.

Pictures by Alexander's Fine Portrait Design, www.AlexandersPortraits.com.

HONORS ON THE ROAD! It's especially gratifying to spend time with our graduates and the significant people in their lives. It is the true reward of education — seeing our graduates thrive and achieve their goals! Dr. Estess recently visited the alums in the Big Apple. We hope to have a chance to visit more cities this upcoming year.



Picture from the Honors alumni gathering in New York City, May 2007: Lisa Khan, Lisa Cooley, Dean Ted Estess, Nicola Clegg, Ravi Thakur, Damon Wilkinson and Tina Lee.

What is development you ask? This is a common question, so here are a few little known (or well known) facts. Look for more information in upcoming issues!

THE ANNUAL FUND provides invaluable unrestricted dollars to supplement The Honors College education. The Annual Fund supports everything from faculty fellowships and emergency scholarships to updating our facilities. **Many thanks to those of you who answered the call from the Annual Fund office and generously contributed in support of The Honors College!**

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS give back to enrolled students in perpetuity. The Honors College vigorously recruits students eligible for admission to the College. Endowed scholarships provide financial support to students in need and increase the competitiveness of the College. **Thank you to all who have endowed a fund this year and in years past.** Your generosity continues to impact the college! Shannon Parrish, the director of Development, can be contacted at sparrish@uh.edu or at 713-743-9973.

1970s

Jon Doyle ('74, Mathematics) will be speaking at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany this October, where faculty in computer science and philosophy will be offering a course on his book *Extending Mechanics to Minds*. He is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Computer Science at North Carolina State University. <jon_doyle@ncsu.edu>

Anne Lista Webb ('78, Consumer Sciences and Human Development) and **Dennis Webb** ('76, Electrical Engineering) just celebrated their 30th Anniversary. Dennis, the Mission Operations Project Manager for NASA's Constellation Program, recently published the book *The Arp Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies, A Chronicle and Observer's Guide* (Willmann-Bell, 2006). Anne is a jewelry designer and artist. <DenJWebb@aol.com>

1980s

Richard Dowling ('85, Music) works as a pianist and editor for Masters Music Publications. He is happy to announce that after 18 years his doctoral dissertation, a performing edition of Ravel's piano trio, is *finally* getting published. <pianistNYC@aol.com>

Robert Nowak ('87, Radio & Television; '89, French) is Webmaster for the City of Houston. Bob continues his interest in France, and is going for another visit this fall. <Robert.nowak@cityofhouston.net>

Douglas Cummins ('89, Computer Science & Mathematics) recently returned from a year in Thailand where he worked on a business idea, recuperated from a badly broken leg, and did charity work with one of Bangkok's universities. <dacummins33@yahoo.com>

Sofia Fonseca ('89, Environmental Design) and her husband George Nino will be home schooling their four children (Stefan, Marco, Sabrina, and Estela) for the second year this fall. <sofia.fonseca@kyoconsulting.com>

continue to be based in Houston, and has said something about knowing a great place to host an Honors Alumni Happy Hour! <vrunge@joescs.com>

1990s

Bruce Beaubouef ('90, History; '93 MA; '97, Ph.D.) has a book forthcoming, based on his doctoral dissertation on the history of the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. He was recently promoted to Editor of PipeLine and Gas Technology magazine. <bbeaubouef@hartenergy.com>

alumni news

Dr. Michael S. Lawson ('89, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) and his wife, Dr. Julieana Nichols-Lawson would like to announce the birth of their first child, Steven Paul Lawson, on February 4, 2007. <doclaws@aol.com>

Kevin O'Gorman ('89, German) has been named in The Best Lawyers in America for 2007. He was selected as a runner-up in Global Arbitration Review's 45 leaders in international arbitration under 45. Kevin is a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston practicing international arbitration and litigation. <kogorman@fulbright.com>

Victor Runge ('89, Accounting) recently joined the team of the newly independent Joe's Crab Shack restaurant chain as its Director of Tax. Victor will

Michael Danke ('91, Marketing) served as volunteer race director for the first annual Celiac Awareness Run/Walk in Houston in May, with help from his wife Adrienne and their children Andrew and Cleo (www.CeliacRun.com). Michael is now helping plan another Celiac run in Austin. <mdanke@us.ibm.com>

Sandra Colon Hokett ('91, Accounting) and **Jeff Hokett** ('91, Finance) are proud to announce that U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeff assumed command of the 3rd Space Experimentation Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colorado, on June 1, 2007. <hokett@juno.com>

Jeffrey Wilson ('91, Mechanical Engineering) was recently promoted to Senior Vice President at Ryder Scott Company — Petroleum Consultants. He has worked for the Houston-based company

since 1998.

<Jeffrey_Wilson@ryderscott.com>

Craig Delaughter ('92, Biology) completed his M.D./Ph.D. as a Presidential Scholar at Baylor College of Medicine in 2001, and finished his cardiology fellowship at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's in June 2007. During the next year, Craig will train in Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, the specialty that corrects cardiac arrhythmias and implants pacemakers and defibrillators.

<mcdeaug@swbell.net>

Five Outstanding Young Houstonians for 2007, which is granted by the Houston Jaycees and recognizes outstanding Houstonians based on extraordinary achievements in community service, business, the arts, politics, and athletics.

<rondon@judgerondon.com>

Heather Bonser-Bishop ('93, English) was selected as a 2007 Rural Health Fellow, and in April she was named Community Member of the Year by Humboldt State University's School of Business for her work bridging the

a master's degree in clinical psychology from UH Clear Lake in May 2007 as well. <melbarr@uh.edu>

Jennifer Handa ('94, Psychology) has spent the past seven months traveling the world, which has included bungee jumping in New Zealand. She will be relocating to start her new job in October, working at McMurdo, the largest U.S. base in Antarctica.

<jahanda@sbcglobal.net>

Lani Dunn Ramsey ('94, Interdisciplinary Studies) and **Bill Ramsey** ('93, Chemical Engineering) are living in Ohio, with their children, Marissa and Kyle, where Bill was relocated with ExxonMobil.

<laniramsey@adelphia.net>

Stephanie Felts Dement ('95, French) and her husband Donald welcomed their second son, Micah Wesley Dement, on February 21, 2007. Older brother Jonah turned two in May.

<Stephanie@dementfamily.com>

Matthew Mucker ('95, Biology) works for Microsoft. Matthew and his wife, Karen, are expecting their first child in December 2007.

<matthew@mucker.net>

Karen Taylor Webster ('95, Finance) and husband **Andrew Webster** ('95, Management) are excited to announce that Andrew was promoted to the position of partner in Accenture's Utilities Consulting Practice. The couple has two children, Noah (age six) and Eli (age four).

<websterkaren@yahoo.com>

alumni notes

Diane Hawthorne Scardino ('92, Marketing & Organizational Behavior and Management) and her husband, Andy, adopted William Joseph, who was born on December 23rd and placed in their home Christmas night. Diane was promoted to Director of the Texas Children's Health Centers in March and also achieved fellowship status in the American College of Healthcare Executives last November.

<dhscardi@texaschildrenshospital.org>

Coleen Murphy ('92, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) is an assistant professor of molecular biology at Princeton. Her research interests include the exploration of the process of aging.

<ctmurphy@princeton.edu>

Reece Rondon ('92, Accounting; '95, Law) was recently named one of the

nonprofit community and the School of Business. She lives in California with her husband and two young daughters.

<heather@bonserbishop.com>

Kelli Bardwell Fereday ('94, Chemical Engineering & Chemistry) and her husband George are looking forward to the birth of their second child in August, to join their son Sam (age two). Kelli is currently working as a senior drilling engineer with BP.

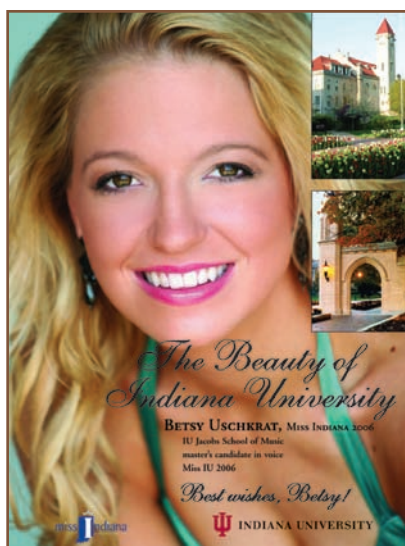
<kelli.fereday@bp.com>

Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick ('94, Psychology; '07, MSW) joined the Institute for Religion and Health as the Program Development Director in May. She completed a master's degree in May 2007 from UH Graduate College of Social Work. **Sean Fitzpatrick** (Psychology, '96), her husband, completed

Kathryn Guegel Donnelly ('96, Electrical Engineering) recently celebrated 11 years of service with Amoco/BP, and received her Professional Engineering License last year. Kathy recently returned to Houston to be married in her hometown. <guegelkg@bp.com>

Jeff Friedrich ('96, Biology) and his wife, Allison, had their second child, Wilson Heath Friedrich, on April 26. Jeff is completing a hand surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and has accepted a plastic surgeon appointment at the University of Washington in Seattle. <jeff_friedrich@hotmail.com>

Mechel Henry ('96, Biology) has opened her own medical practice in Kentfield, C.A.. She is engaged to Richard Young, Jr. <mechel@gmail.com>



Betsy Uschkrat ('05, Music) was named Miss Indiana 2006. A vocal performance student, Betsy represented Indiana University at a May 26th performance at the Kennedy Center in DC. <betsyuschkrat@yahoo.com>

Joseph Parle ('96, Political Science & Spanish) currently works as Academic Dean and Assistant Professor at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston. Joseph also has a daily program on KETH Channel 14 entitled "We Speak Ingles y Español." <joe.parle@cbs-houston.edu>

Tiffany Brown ('97, Radio & Television) recently had an article published in the book *What Lies Beneath: Katrina, Race, and the State of the Nation* released in early 2007 by South Bend Press. <politikalmine@yahoo.com>

Beth Cherry ('98, English) completed her MFA at Parsons School of Design in May 2006, and is now working at Sapient as an Information Architect. She lives in New York City. <ercherry@gmail.com>

Renee Dodd ('98, English; '04 MFA Creative Writing) published her first novel, *A Cabinet of Wonders*, in July 2006. Renee currently lives in Milledgeville, G.A. where she teaches creative writing at Georgia College & State University. <renee@reneedodd.com>

alumni news

Juan Escalon ('97, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) is currently completing subspecialty training in cardiothoracic surgery at Yale University. <juan.escalon@yale.edu>

Angie Welborn ('97, Political Science) moved back to Texas after living nine years in DC. Angie and husband David bought a house north of Austin where she is currently serving as Legal Counsel to the Texas State Auditor's Office. <angiewelborn@hotmail.com>

Darshana (Dishi) Chadda ('98, Biology) graduated from UNTHSC-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2005. She is now a third-year Internal Medicine resident at Memorial Hospital in York, P.A. <uhcougar98@hotmail.com>

Jesse Rainbow ('98, History) completed his Masters in Theology, and will be in Boston this fall to begin his Ph.D. at Harvard. He has recently published an article in the Harvard Theological Review. <jesserainbow@gmail.com>

Dr. Joel Westra ('98, Political Science) and **Julie Glasco Westra** ('02, History) have relocated to Michigan, where Joel has taken a faculty position at Calvin College. Joel completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago while Julie earned her law degree at the University of Iowa. <joel.westra@gmail.com>

Katie Kalenda ('99, Sociology) was promoted to program director for Children's Miracle Network at Texas Children's Hospital in January 2007. <katiekalenda@hotmail.com>

Meredith May Wise ('99, Communications; '00, Art History) and her husband Robert, are expecting their second child in October. <meremay77@aol.com>

Mindi Morris Meeks ('99, Psychology) married Capt. Daniel Meeks on March 17, 2007 at the Rothko Chapel in Houston. Mindi has started an internship in surgical nursing at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, where the couple will continue to live until the Air Force decides where to send them next. <mindimorris@hotmail.com>

cepted a position with Morrison & Foerster, LLP. <kayfitzpatrick@gmail.com>

Nicholas Stoffle ('00, Physics) is finishing his graduate degree in physics while working as a research engineer for Metal Oxide Technologies, trying to perfect a process to make second-generation superconducting wire. He and his wife, April, welcomed their first child in March. <Nicholas.stoffle@metox.biz>

Recio in Brownsville. After the clerkship, she will work for the international law firm Jones Day in Houston. <briuh@yahoo.com>

Pamela Klekar Burns ('04, Political Science) married Cory Burns in November, 2006. She now works as a Public Outreach Specialist with the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department. She will be entering graduate school at UTA for a Masters in City and Regional Planning. <pburns@nctcog.org>

Bridger Bell ('05, Mathematics & Political Science) completed his M.A. in government (political theory concentration) at the University of Virginia in May, and has taken a job as a high school math teacher and assistant varsity swimming coach at the Westminster School in Atlanta, G.A. <bridgerbell@mac.com>

Shane Pennington ('06, Political Science) was accepted into the University of Texas Law School for fall 2007. <shane.pennington@bakerbotts.com>

Jennifer Gajan ('07, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) was accepted with full funding to a Ph.D. program at UC-San Francisco. She also rode in the MS150 for a second time this year, which is a bike ride from Houston to Austin that raises funding for research on multiple sclerosis. <jkgajan@uh.edu>

Send your alumni notes to Brenda Rhoden at <bjrhoden@uh.edu>.

alumni notes

Claudia Turc ('99, Management) recently married Chris Murray. Both currently work at the University of Houston, where Claudia is a financial analyst. <cturc@uh.edu>

2000s

David Berntsen ('00, Optometry) and his wife Monique are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Ella Grace, born on May 20, 2007. David is continuing his studies at Ohio State, where he is currently recruiting subjects for the clinical trial of his Ph.D. dissertation. <david@berntsen.cc>

Kadhine Fitz-Patrick ('00, French) graduated from California Hastings College of Law in May 2007 and has ac-

Kamrun Jenabzadeh ('01, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) is in his third year as a surgical resident at the University of Minnesota. He is marrying Ms. Nicole M. Eikens on September 2, 2007, in Houston. <kamrunj@yahoo.com>

Marisa Bonneaux Emmons ('03, Biochemical & Biophysical Sciences) graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio Medical School this past May. She will complete her residency in Family Medicine at Christus Santa Rosa in San Antonio, where she lives with her husband, Matt, and nine-month-old son, Ryan. <marisaemmons@gmail.com>

Briana Bassler ('04, Political Science) graduated from UH Law in May. In August, she will begin a one-year federal judicial clerkship for Judge Felix

STUDY ABROAD CONT.

reasons why students don't travel to Europe: financial cost, fear of the unknown, and time taken away from school. So they tailored the scholarship to overcome all three potential roadblocks. Scholarship recipients depart for Geneva in late May for a three-week excursion, where they spend a week with the Economon family. For the two weeks following, the scholarship provides airfare, a two-week Eurail pass and a 500 stipend.

Now in its second year, FEET has provided four Honors students with this amazing opportunity. In 2006, Jenny Brzowski (BA, '07) and Meghan Hendley (BA, '08) began their European vacation with a week-long exploration of Geneva, including a trip to the Alps. Then they spent two weeks traveling in the south of France (Aix, Avignon and Provence) and Italy (Rome, Florence and Venice).

This year, engineering juniors Michael Fernandez (BS, '09) and Leif Bagge (BS, '09), visited with the Economon family for a week before heading to Amster-

dam, Paris, Rome and Venice. Highlights of their trip included a jazz concert at the Bimhuis (a music venue located directly on the Ij River) with Roloff, Hanneke's cousin in Amsterdam, visiting the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and eating at a restaurant in Rome that featured a 3-foot wide flaming wheel of cheese.

Mike summarized his experience: "When I took Human Sit. in fall of 2005, Mr. Lauster lectured on several paintings, among them Raphael's *School of Athens*. This trip has made my Honors experience come full circle: first by introducing me to the painting and then making it possible for me to actually see it in the Vatican Museum." Aris really liked having the guys around too. "Mike made us some great buttermilk pancakes one day. I'm thinking cooking skills should be a factor in future selections." The low point of the trip: oversleeping and missing their flight from Geneva to Amsterdam on their first day away from the Economons!



University of Houston
THE HONORS COLLEGE
212 MD Anderson Library
Houston, TX 77204-2001



Non-Profit Org.
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit No. 5910

a r e t é is published by The Honors College at the University of Houston. The name is a Greek word designating courage in a warrior and civic virtue in the polis. Areté has come to mean excellence in character and action.

The Honors College
Ted Estess, Dean
William Monroe, Executive Associate Dean
Stuart Long, Associate Dean
Jodie Koszegi, Assistant Dean

Office telephone: 713/743-9010
Office fax: 713/743-9015
www.uh.edu/honors

Newsletter designed by Karen Weber