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The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston

Vol. 25 No. 1

## Hanneke Faber Visits Honors

On the evening of November 6th, The Honors College recognized one of our distinguished graduates, Hanneke Faber, '90, '92 MBA at our first Distinguished Graduate Dinner.

An alumna of The Honors College at the University of Houston, Hanneke Faber holds the title of the youngest Vice President at Proctor and Gamble. At 39 years of age, Ms. Faber is responsible for product lines in Western Europe, as well as the entire Proctor and Gamble cosmetics business through distributors in 65 countries worldwide. Her oversight extends to some \$1.2 billion in revenues. In addition to being a wife and mother of three, Ms. Faber's current projects include building the company's greenest plant to date in Poland. Proctor and Gamble is one of the world's most innovative advertisers and marketers; Faber stands as one of the individuals key to this accomplishment. Her visit represented a unique opportunity for the University students, faculty, and staff to gain insight into the "real world" of marketing. Hanneke addressed fellow alums, Advisory Board members, and supporters of The Honors College at the dinner and engaged Honors students in a standing room only crowd the next day with great reviews.

Hanneke, however, is not just a distinguished alumna because of her career accomplishments, but also because of her desire to provide opportunities for those following behind her. Married to fellow graduate Aris Economon, '89, each year Hanneke and Aris fund the University of Houston F.E.E.T Scholarship in The Honors College which provides two Honors students the opportunity to travel to Europe. Six students

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## Distinguished Graduate Dinner



Top picture: Aris Economon, Bill Monroe, Hanneke Faber, and Stuart Long; Bottom picture: Mike Fernandez, Hanneke Faber, Frank Thomas, Meghan Hendley, Leif Bagge, Lyle Hood, Jodie Koszegi, Aris Economon, and Jenny Brzowski at the first Distinguished Graduate Dinner.

## Mient Jan Faber Speaks on Peace

*International peace activist*, Dr. Mient Jan Faber, joined his daughter, Hanneke, in addressing Honors students on Thursday, November 6th.

Dr. Faber addressed a standing room only crowd of students, staff, faculty, and community friends, he shared his first-hand experiences in some of the world's most war-torn regions. Dr. Faber began his career as a Professor of Math before he launched into his role as Secretary General of the Interchurch Peace Council in The Hague.

He served in this capacity for over 30 years and is currently the Political Director of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Baku/Paris and as well as a Professor of Human Security in War Situations in the

Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Dr. Faber's experience comes from his regular travels to conflict zones.

As an expert in peace affairs, Dr. Faber led the movement in the early 80's to prevent the deployment of nuclear peace keeping missiles in Holland; marched with the Solidarity Movement in Poland; supported Havel in the Czech Republic; as well as played a pivotal role in uncovering the inside bad behavior regarding the Srebrenica Genocide in Yugoslavia—one of the worst episodes of genocide in history. Dr. Faber is intimately knowledgeable about the volatile situations in Iraq and the Gaza Strip. Known as one of the top experts in the world on conflict areas and human rights, Dr. Faber was declared an enemy of the state in Russia, East Germany and Yugoslavia.



*Mient Jan Faber spoke with University of Houston students, faculty, and staff members about the war in Iraq and the global state of affairs on November 6th in the Honors Commons.*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM DEAN

*Dear Friends of The Honors College,*

This is a time of great and exciting change at The Honors College. Though I expect a permanent dean to be named in the coming months, as the interim dean it is my pleasure to work with our outstanding faculty and staff as we embark on the next stage of the college's growth.

Several new programs have or are in the process of being launched at the college, all in keeping with our mission to provide our students with an intellectual and social environment that is dynamic, challenging, and enriching.

The college has launched a new minor, *Phronesis*, which focuses on politics and ethics by exploring topics such as the nature of justice and freedom, the character of democracy, and the relationship between politics and religion.

The Medicine in Society Program, which explores how advances in medical knowledge impact not just health-care, but also society at large, is attracting greater interest from undergraduate students and the Houston medical community alike.

Our Office of Undergraduate Research continues to expand, offering students the chance to conduct research under the guidance of UH faculty members, thereby giving them the opportunity to make real and substantive contributions to their fields of study.

The Honors College's new Center for Creative Work seeks to provide aspiring artists and writers at the College with opportunities to develop their skills through workshops, retreats, collaborations, and mutual, constructive critiques.

These are just a handful of the exciting programs and initiatives we are undertaking at The Honors College. Please explore the Honors website further to learn more about our work, and about how you can be involved, <http://www.uh.edu/honors/>.

Sincerely,

**Stuart Long**

Interim Dean  
Honors College,

Associate Dean of  
Undergraduate Research,

Professor of Electrical  
Engineering



### GREAT CONVERSATION 2009

Wednesday, April 1st, 2009  
Houston Country Club

Gerald and Olga Balboa and  
Trey and Kimberly Wilkinson,  
co-chairs of the event,  
welcome your participation and support.

The Great Conversation is the  
College's premier fund raising event  
primarily supporting student scholarships  
as well as some annual support.  
Please visit the website to find out more details,  
[www.uh.edu/honors/](http://www.uh.edu/honors/).

## 1970s

**Jay Ferry's** ('79, Economics) company, Texas Energy Options, has just entered its sixth year and has clients in over 20 states. His oldest daughter is currently attending UH.

<poweroptions02@aol.com>

## 1980s

**Marty Knutsen** ('81, Political Science) has moved to Stamford, Connecticut, where he is Chief Compliance Officer for the Stamford Hospital.

<foreverstilts@gmail.com>

**Darren Smith** ('81, Electrical Engineering) is a systems engineer at Entropic Communications in San Diego.

**Kevin Smith** ('81, Electrical Engineering) is a staff engineer at Silicon Laboratories in Austin. He and his wife have two daughters. <kevins@swbell.net>



**Byron Smith** ('93, Finance) visited The Honors College and Dr. Estess with his wife and quadruplets. *see photo above*

<six-smith@pobox.com >

**Zissis C. Chroneos** ('88, Biochemistry) is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, and runs various projects on lung injury and infectious diseases. He and his wife, Zvezdana, have four daughters, Maria-Zdenka, Sofija-Zoe, Rea-Latarina, and Kristina-Theodora.

<Zissis.Chroneos@uthct.edu>

**Christopher Smith** ('88, Political Science) and his wife of 15 years currently live in Spring with their son Drew and their daughter Sarah, whom they adopted from Hunan, China.

<ChrisS@PennWell.com>

## alumni news

**Andrew Economon** ('89, Hotel and Restaurant Management) is Vice President of Food and Beverage for the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

<ANDREWE@HRHVEGAS.COM>

## 1990s

**Agnieszka Klich** ('90, Russian Studies, Radio & Television, Journalism, History & Anthropology) is a partner and member of the project finance practice of the London offices of Chadbourne & Parke, L. L. P.

**Valerie Garrett** ('91, Architecture) was named a Green Building Specialist for the City of Portland, Oregon's Office of Sustainable Development.

<valgal@involved.com>

**Steve Brown** ('93, Chemical Engineering) and **Kelley Robb Brown** ('94, Business) welcomed their first daughter, Ella Kate Brown, on September 20, 2008; one week after Hurricane Ike.

<kelley@hurricanesteve.com>

**Lydia Potoczniak** ('93, Political Science & Russian Studies) is currently working as a Patent Manager for the Office of Technology Transfer at Rice University. <lpotoczniak@yahoo.com>

**Nichol Bradford** ('94, Marketing) is the Director of Business Operations for Blizzard Entertainment China in Shanghai. <nbradford@blizzard.com>

**Katharine J. Caplan** ('94, Biology & Sociology; '01, Law) is with the law firm of Akin Gump.

<kcaplan@akingump.com>

**Craig R. Enochs** ('94, Psychology) was included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008*. Craig practices derivatives law with Jackson Walker, L. L. P. in Houston. <cenoch@earthlink.net>

## alumni notes

**Yasir Kazi** ('95, Chemical Engineering) is currently working on his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies at Yale.

<mukazi@juno.com>

**Patrizia Labella** ('97, Political Science & Spanish) is the *Analyste des politiques and Coordinateur du dialogue* for the *Centre de Developpement* at the *Organisation de Cooperation et de Developopement Economiques* in Paris.

<patrizia.labella@oecd.org>

**Alice Cherqui** ('99, Biology & Classical Studies) is in her fifth year of residency in Neurosurgery at LSU in New Orleans. She will be done with her schooling after two more years.

<acherq@lsuhsc.edu>

**Amit Darnule** ('99, Biophysical Sciences) and **Neeta Dhall Darnule** ('02, Electrical Engineering) welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Keshav Amit Darnule on July 24, 2007. They moved to Dallas after Amit finished a Fellowship in Pain Management in Chicago, IL.

<neetadarnule@yahoo.com>

## 2000s

**Anees Siddiqui** ('00, Chemistry) attended UT-Southwestern for medical school and residency, and is currently at Harvard doing a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology. <anees@siddiqui.us>

**Liz Greene** ('01, History) is Director of Marketing for MBO Partners.

<liz.greene@yahoo.com>

**Kamrun Jenabzadeh** ('01, Biophysical Sciences) is a Research Fellow in the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota. <kamrunj@yahoo.com>

**Megan Lee Soukup** ('01, Political Science) received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Texas State University in May '07. She is currently teaching English at the small liberal arts college, Ferrum College, in Ferrum, VA. She and her husband, Dr. Greg Soukup have a six-year old son.

<MSoukup@FERRUM.EDU>

**Brian J. Phillips** ('01, Biology) is currently a Licensing Associate in Biological Sciences for the Department of Technology Transfer at Rice University.

<Hubertp2@fastermac.net>

**Anna Stoupina** ('07, Psychology) is attending Rice University's Ph.D. program in Cognitive Psychology.

<anna\_stoupina@yahoo.com>



Dr. Estess with Karla and James Lee at the Estess Years Celebration, which took place on the weekend of May 3rd-4th.

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



### National Awards

**Professor Hayan Charara**, an adjunct professor at The Honors College, has been awarded the NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry for 2009. This is a \$25,000 award to fund his Arab American poetry projects. The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

His book, *Inclined to Speak*, gathers together poems, from the most important Arab American poets of our time that shape and alter our understanding of this experience. These poems also challenge us to reconsider what it means to be American.

Hayan Charara is also the author of two collections of poetry, *The Sadness of Others* (Carnegie Mellon, 2006) and *The Alchemist's Diary*

(Hanging Loose, 2001) and editor of *Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry* (University of Arkansas, 2008).

He earned his BA in English from Wayne State University, a master's degree in Humanities from New York University, and is Ph.D. candidate at the University of Houston's Literature and Creative Writing Program.

## faculty news

### Faculty in the Community

During the day **Dr. John Harvey** is Artist-in-Residence with The Center for Creative Work at The Honors College at the University of Houston. At night, however, he is Resident Playwright for Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company, which has been awarded Best Theater on a Shoestring Budget in The Houston Press "Best of" Awards for 2008.

Citing Mildred's Umbrella's dedication "to the strangeness of theater" and its "artistic integrity on a shoestring budget," the article mentions Dr. Harvey's own play *ROT* which toured Texas earlier this year. Last year, *ROT* won the Best Original Show award in the Houston Press. In 2006, Mildred's Umbrella won the Best Theater Company Award. This is just one example of the creative and critical work by Honors faculty, bridging UH and Houston in exciting and dynamic ways.



Dr. Harvey earned his undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and his graduate degrees from the University of Houston Creative Writing Program.



**Dr. Stacey Peebles** will represent The Honors College at the Modern Language Association conference in San Francisco this December. As a panelist in a section entitled "War on Gender, Gender on War," Peebles will deliver her paper "Making (and Unmaking) a Military Man: Iraq, Gender, and the Failure of the Masculine Collective."

Her current project explores the first wave of prose, poetry, and film about the soldier's experience in America's wars in Iraq.

## faculty news

Dr. Peebles earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Texas at Austin.



**The Miranda Project**, founded by **Tanya Lunstroth**, performed **Dr. William Monroe's** "Primary Care," a medical play about end-of-life questions related to Alzheimer's disease, at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, October 5, 2008.

The Miranda Project is an opportunity for local playwrights to hear their plays read by actors and theatre enthusiasts in an informal setting. The project group meets together monthly and hosts readings of plays, monologues and poetry. The Miranda

Project is a sort of liaison between the creative thought and writing of the playwright and the reality of the audience and performance.

Tanya Lunstroth is an actor who has also worked as an administrative assistant in The Honors College for over 20 years. As founder of the Miranda Project, she can be contacted for more information on the group at [lunstroth@uh.edu](mailto:lunstroth@uh.edu).

Dr. William Monroe is the Executive Associate Dean in The Honors College, a professor in the Department of English, and the Nancy O'Connor

Abendshein Professor in the College. In addition to his administrative duties, he teaches courses in contemporary American fiction and poetry and the interdisciplinary courses Literature & Medicine and Literature & Alienation. He currently is working on a manuscript about Flannery O'Connor entitled *The Vocation of Affliction*.

Dr. Monroe earned undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Texas at Austin and his doctorate at the University of Chicago.

For more information on the news and achievements of Honors faculty, students and staff, visit [www.uh.edu/honors/](http://www.uh.edu/honors/).

## *Hanneke Faber Visits The Honors College cont.*

have benefitted thus far from the F.E.E.T. scholarship. The students begin at the home of Hanneke and Aris in Geneva, Switzerland, and then students have the opportunity to travel through Italy, France, and Greece.

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our alumni each year with a special dinner in their honor. If you would like to nominate someone, please send your suggestions to Shannon Brotherton at [sparrish@uh.edu](mailto:sparrish@uh.edu).



*The 1st Distinguished Graduate Dinner took place on November 6th at The Honors College.*



*Greg Weiher & Aris Economon at the event.*



*Hanneke spoke to guests about how her Honors education enhanced her career.*

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areté 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**  
Stuart Long, Interim Dean  
William Monroe, Executive Associate Dean  
Jodie Koszegi, Assistant Dean

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*Newsletter designed by Karen Weber*

