

New Space, New Director

# HONORS ON THE MOVE!

Before the close of fall 2007, the Lamar University Honors Program will move into its new home at 1060 East Virginia. Before the start of fall 2008, Honors will also welcome a new director.

changes for the University Honors Program. In retirement, it is tempting to look to the past and all that the Honors Program has achieved over the past decade. But I encourage students and their parents to look to the future and all the continuing achievements of the program.

The Honors Program has been housed in the ROTC Building just south of the Mary and John Gray Library since the summer of 1999, when Dr. Birdwell took over as Director. In that building, Honors

claimed two offices and two additional rooms that were outfitted as student lounge and study space.

In the new 3,000-square-foot quarters on East Virginia . formerly occupied by the Center for General Studies and the McNair Scholars Program . Honors will have a larger student space with its own kitchen, comfortable sofas and chairs, bistro-style tables, and more computers. The Honors Student Association will have its own office



page 2.

Honors students compete for  
see page 4.

Spring Awards Reception

LU bounces back after surprise

# New Beck Fellowship Encourages Excellence

*By Lauren Wigley*

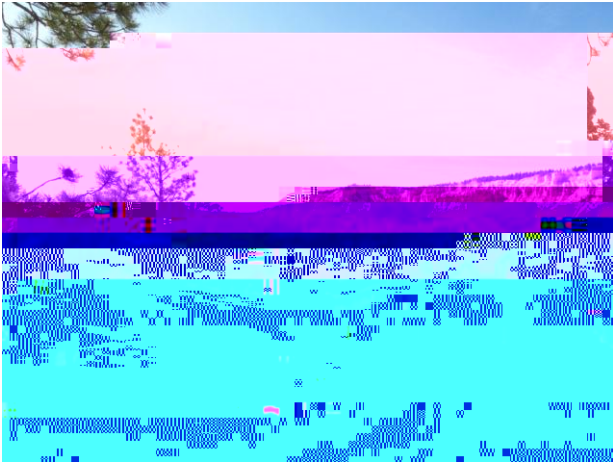
With dozens of opportunities for students to succeed at Lamar University, the David J. Beck Fellowship will provide yet another. Through a \$1 million dollar donation to the Lamar University Foundation, David J. Beck has created a fellowship open to all undergraduate students exhibiting financial need and who display the highest level of academic accomplishment.

Beck, who graduated from Lamar in 1961, is a litigator at Beck, Redden & Secret L.L.P. and serves as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, open only to the top 1 percent of trial lawyers in the country.

Available to students of any discipline, at the outset, the David J. Beck Fellowship will su



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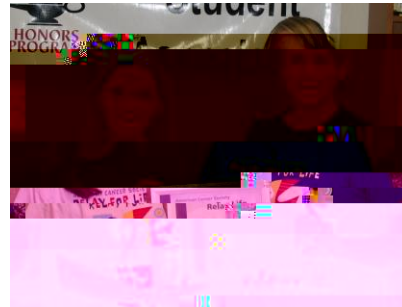
Bryce Canyon. It is possible to learn about a natural

## *Acosta Recounts Adventures at Bryce Canyon National Park*

*(Ritchie received a McMaster Grant to participate in the will host an event in the Big Thicket during in March 2008.)*

Ritchie Acosta Writes:

Bryce Canyon was not only the highlight of my freshman year in college, but perhaps the highlight of the past four years in which I have lived in the United States. A six hour delay in Vegas motivated me to mingle with people around the waiting area and realize that twenty of my fellow passengers were also members of the Partners in the Parks with whom I would be sharing tents for the next week. Southern Utah University welcomed us to Cedar City (which is actually surrounded by juniper trees) with a well thought out program. Upon arrival at the park, we all succumbed to the new environment, without light poles, without internet connection, with poor phone signals, and an unimaginable silence that allowed us to sleep without being disturbed except, perchance, by hungry deer or annoying woodpeckers in the morning. The food was without a doubt one of my favorite parts of the trip. Who would have thought for it to be possible to make brownies in the middle of the woods? Or that any of the girls in our cooking groups would hand the pots and spatulas to the men for us to be responsible for the dinner. One of my richest memories was the famous Partners in the Parks dinner. I am not quite familiar with hobobrot life, but if they eat every day, then hobobrot life might not be that bad after all. As a part of the learning experience, we had a series of daily activities and seminars to keep our brains working; after all we were all honor students. With the collaboration of park rangers, lecturers and scientists, we had first hand exposure to the history, geology, park conservation, natural life, and everything there was to learn about





*Dear Honors Friends and Colleagues,*

*rs Program continues to set new benchmarks for itself. Our fall 2007 enrollment of 238 is a new record and we have finally surpassed our goal of enrolling 2.5% of all LU undergraduates in Honors, reaching 2.7% this term. Our numbers of Honors Program Graduates continue to increase as well.*

*The front page of CADENZA highlights our move to new Honors quarters by the end of 2007. We are also well into the process of searching for a new Honors Program Director, who will take charge fall of 2008 after my r*

*Being Director of Honors for the past eight years (since summer of 1999) has truly been the peak experience of my 23-year sojourn at Lamar University.*

*both a delight and a challenge. I have always maintained that the success of our Honors Program can only be measured by the success of our students and their success continually amazes me! All I can say*

*in your Lamar University experience. I know Honors at Lamar will continue to achieve bigger and better things, far into the future.*

*Sincerely,*

*Donna B. Birdwell*

## **Honors Students Contend For Campaign '08 Scholarships**

*By Christi Grudier*

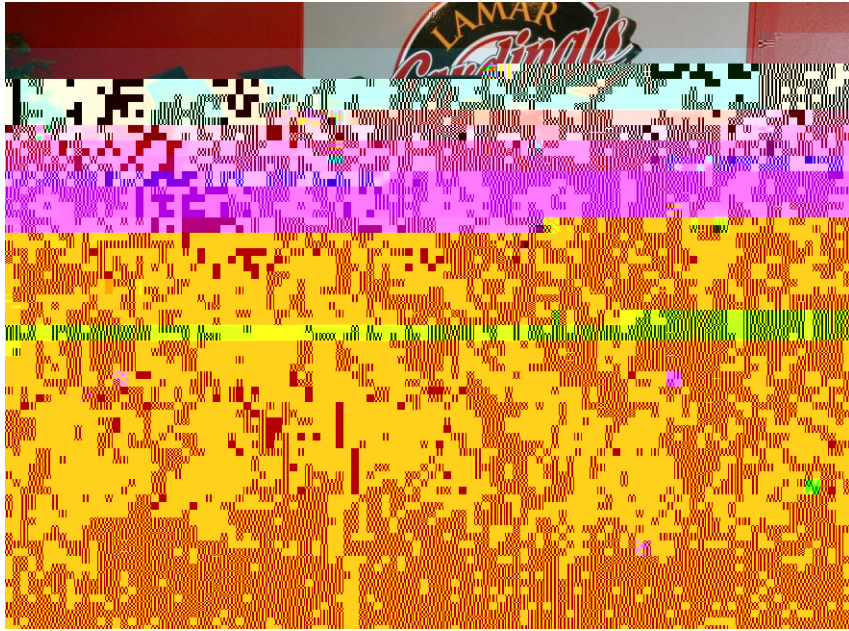
This fall, Honors Program students applied for the opportunity to attend the 2008 national political conventions as participants in The Washington ~~Ó} c!q Á&œ{ 3Á•^ { 3æ•~~. Two students will be selected to receive McMaster Scholarships to attend one of the conventions . either the Democratic National Convention August 17-29 in Denver, CO, or the Republican National Convention August 24-September 5 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN.

During the week prior to the conventions, students attend seminars, lectures, workshops, and discussions designed to enhance their knowledge of governmental and political processes.

The second week focuses on the issues of the parties and the campaign itself. Each student is given a field placement according to their interests, permitting them to conduct interviews, attend events, meet political figures, and be in the midst of the action.

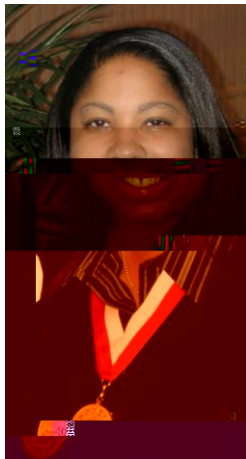
Dr. Alisa Hicklin,





## Honors Program Graduates May 2007

FRONT: Melisa Goolsby, Courtney Tomlin Gallagher, Lacy Benoit, Crystal Frost, Miriam Dark.  
BACK: Janice Wilson, Nick Vikos, Lindsey Cauthen, Oscar Villanueva, Emily Lockard, Michael Moreau, Dr. Birdwell.  
*Not pictured: Jace Daigle and Erica Williams.*



Honors Program Graduate Erica Williams is now at the University of Louisville pursuing her Ph.D. in Political Science.

Honors Program Graduate Oscar Villanueva received the Plummer Award for top grade point average from Texas State University System Chancellor Charles R. Matthews.

## Whitton Volunteers Down Under

Daniel Whitton Writes:

This summer I had the awesome privilege of being able to spend a month in Australia through an organization called International Student Volunteers. The first two weeks I spent in a small tourist town on the southern coast of Victoria called Port Fairy working on conservation projects around the area with a group of eight other Americans, a girl from Ireland, and a guy from the UK. During those two weeks we planted 3,100 trees, collected seeds for reforestation, among many other activities.

For the next two weeks, we joined up with forty other students from America, Canada, and the UK and traveled up the eastern coast of Australia from Sydney to Cairns. We went snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, rappelling in the Blue Mountains, did a lot of sightseeing, and some of our group went skydiving. It was an amazing experience, and I encourage anyone who might be interested to visit [www.isvonline.com](http://www.isvonline.com) to find out how to get involved.

