

Newsletter of the Center



Peer Mentoring: New and Already Improved

By Christi Grudier

Honors Peer Mentoring, just beginning its second year at Lamar, has made a few additions to improve one of Honors' newest programs.

Last February, junior Boone Drummond and senior Tony Sarda developed the peer mentoring program for incoming honors students, hoping to make the new students' first semester of college a little bit easier.

"Boone and I were discussing one day how we could have used a lot more information our freshman year in a more organized way," Sarda said. "We wished we had someone there to better acquaint us





Director's Notes

Dear Alums and Friends of Honors,

As we approach the closing measures of spring 2007, we are already looking forward to the new academic year. We are well on track to be welcoming a record number of new Honors students in fall 07, including the second crop of Mirabeau Scholars.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Honors Program Spring Awards Reception on April 10, when we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors and seek to inspire our incoming scholarship students. The spring reception is always the highlight of our year in Honors and includes awards for student achievements in leadership, scholarship and service as well as the announcement of our Honors Professor of the Year.

Please come visit us when you are on the Lamar campus! Our Honors community includes not just our current students, but our Honors faculty and former faculty, graduates, and family members. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Donna B. Birdwell

Brothers and Sisters in Honors

All in the Lamar Honors Family

Lamar's Honors Program has had quite a few sibling sets enrolled over the years – 11 to be

Survivors or friends and family of a loved one lost by cancer are especially urged to come. A special ceremony will be held in honor of those who have survived and for the memory of those who have passed on.

If you would like to participate in Lamar Relay for Life, you may contact the Honors program to receive additional information or go to www.LamarRelay.org.

HONORS Graduates: Encore!



Student Highlights

Lindsey Cauthen Writes:

My initial exposure to basic research was provided through Dr. Dale Ortego's project centered on measuring ground level ozone. This served as a catalyst to an independent research project correlating respiratory emergencies and ground level ozone emissions in the Southeast Texas area. This, in turn, took me to several national and international meetings including GPHC in San Antonio, NCHC in New Orleans, Sigma Xi in Montreal, Canada, and LSRC here at Lamar. I found that increased exposure to constructive criticism, exploration of secondary research questions and topics, academic stimulation provided by my peers, and a few awards began to propel me toward further research interests.

I continued research in the Biology department with Dr. Michael Haiduk, investigating the genetic subtleties and crossovers in two similar species of diamondback rattlesnake. Armed with the techniques I learned during this project, I applied for summer programs in medical research. I was accepted and spent the next two summers in the Experimental Hematology/Oncology laboratory of Dr. Andrew Davidoff at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.



Honors Program Graduates

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Amber Placette (English), Stephanie Kelsey (Nursing), Cody Cook (Computer Science), Honors Director, Dr. Donna Birdwell, Divya Verma (Economics), Hailey Stevens (Accounting).

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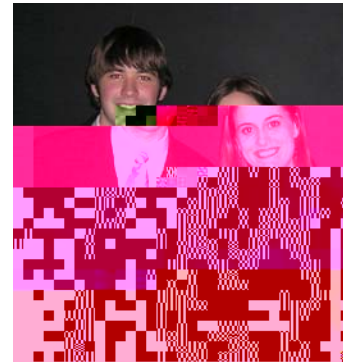
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Honors Student Association president Andrew Kemmerling accompanied Ann Shaw Award winner Stephanie Kelsey to the Toast to Leadership Banquet.



Honors senior Oscar Villanueva (right) had the opportunity for informal discussion with Political Science professor Dr. Elena Sandovici at the Alumni Association's "A Dinner and 12 Strangers" pre-law gathering. Oscar will be an Honors Program Graduate in May.