

Dr. Dodson's School of Rock

By Amy Morgan

Every semester, the Honors Program offers its students the opportunity to take a multitude of courses that are available only to them. Each student in the Honors Program must graduate with 26 hours of honors credit which can be obtained through topics courses and seminars in addition to having the option of upgrading regular courses to Honors. These classes give students the opportunity to learn about subjects not offered in regular courses. They also bring together students from different majors, thereby bringing new perspectives and diversity of knowledge into the classroom. This semester, for instance, these courses ranged from a seminar about the seven deadly sins to a look into financial mathematics.

One course in particular, the Topics

Honors Briefs

At the Student Government Association's Annual Toast to Leadership last May, the Honors Student Association was named Departmental/Professional Student Organization of the Year. Dana Guy received the Bess Gentry Award for Outstanding Senior Woman, and Luis Lopez received the C. Robert Kemble Award for Outstanding Senior Man.

Gwen Mumford exhibited two of her paintings, "Figure Study" and "Father," at TASIMJAE (The Art Studio Inc. Members Jurored Art Exhibition last Spring.

Joshua Barnes, Ana Mendez, Demarcus Prophet, and Javon Prophet presented at the 13th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium in November.

Chelsea Barnard and Honour Harry exhibited their presentation "Books and Bookmaking" at the Idea Exchange of the Annual Conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in Boston this November. Their presentation was based on an Honors Topics course taught by Professors Xenia Fedorchenko (Art) and Steven Zani (English) on that subject in Spring 2010.

Emily McMillon will be working in Cleveland, Ohio as an intern for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Spring 2013.

As participants in the Texas Legislative Internship Program, Kevin Engman and Jacqueline Hernandez will be working in Austin as interns for the State Legislature in Spring 2013.

At the Annual Conference of the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers in September, Alaina Bray won First Place in Undergraduate Fiction for her story "Dust" about a young woman's struggle for identity.

A Message from the H.S.A. President

Hi! My name is Jessica Pospisil, and I am the President of the Honors Student Association for the 2012-2013 academic school year. HSA is an organization



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learned about the need for engineers in the National Park Service and am now exploring the possibility of pursuing a job in that field. But most of all, I've learned that no matter

Swimming with the Mantas

By Elisabeth Maxwell

If I had to use one word to describe my summer it would be “adventure”! Traveling to Mozambique, a count

A Modern Day Pilgrimage

By Chelsea Barnard

In the fall of 2011, I was lucky enough to be awarded the David J. Beck Fellowship, Lamar's most prestigious undergraduate award. This fellowship allowed me not only funding for a year of tuition, books, and housing, but it also provided me the ability to pursue the research project of a lifetime during the summer of 2012.

As an English major, I struggled with the decision to apply for the fellowship. What could I offer that was worthwhile? The more I contemplated, the more I turned toward Chaucer. Even though his *Canterbury Tales* are from the Middle Ages, they still are required reading in most schools. Why? What is so interesting in *The Canterbury Tales* that still pertains to modern life?

The Canterbury Tales, written in Middle English, tells about a group of pilgrims who travel to Canterbury and decide to tell tales in order to fill their travel time. These tales show how diverse these pilgrims are. They come from all parts of life, yet they travel together in a pretty enjoyable fashion. Today we may not exactly be on pilgrimage, but we still find ourselves surrounded with people who have various backgrounds and have experiences far different

Achievements Recognized at the Honors Program Spring Awards Reception

2012 McMaster Honors Scholarship Recipients

Zachary Defrancis, Sabine Pass
Daniel Elley, White Oak
Tory Hoecker, Santa Fe
Zachary Holt, Ross S. Sterling
Crystal Lively, Santa Fe
Victoria Martinez, Nederland
Thomas Michel, Lumberton
Travis Miller, Port Neches-Groves
Amy Myers, Vidor
Danielle Noonan, Bridge City
Justin Vasek, Santa Fe
Caitlin Wheeland, Hardin-Jefferson



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Honors Program Graduates May 2012

From the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Engineering



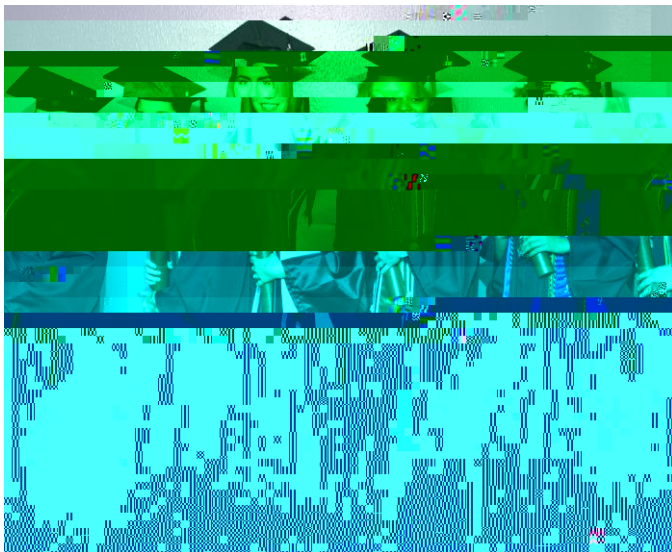
FRONT ROW: Sarah Wion, Megan Hutchison, Chelsey Bromley, Holly Thompson, Susan Rothstein,
Brittnee Rodriguez, Madison Davis

BACK ROW: Dr. Kevin Dodson, Lucas Castle, Andrew Jirrels, Brett Leyendecker, Drew Colvin,
Jake Cosio, Daniel Mortensen, Brandon Roberts, William Ware

Not pictured: Nathan Jordan and Austin Miller

December 2011

From the Colleges of Arts & Sciences
and Business



Layne Ford, Katherine White, Serena Belley,
Jasmine Banks, Valerie Juarez

May 2012

From the Colleges of Education
and Fine Arts & Communication



Dr. Kevin Dodson, Meghan McInerney, Katherine
Brown, Chelsea Willis, Kelsey Crainer, Daniel Whitton

Partners in the Park: The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

By Alaina Bray

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, located near Gunnison, Colorado, has been called the National Park Service's best kept secret. Though the park is smaller and less famous than many others, it is no less beautiful or culturally significant. I was fortunate enough to spend a week here over my summer and left with impressions not only of Colorado's natural beauty, but also of the land's cultural and historical significance and the National Park Service's challenges and missions.

Anyone spending time in Black Canyon of the Gunnison would be immediately struck by the beauty of the landscape. One would need no guide to appreciate the immensity of the canyon walls, the sound of the river below, and the stillness of the Aspen forests. If a group were lucky enough, they might even see one of the area's black bears. The park, of course, can be enjoyed without any guidance. However, the Partners in the Parks program enabled me to leave Colorado with more than scenic photos and memories of

