

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAUBENS COLLEGE AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY®

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“Career ready on day one” is how Dr. Toni Mulvaney, professor of Business Law, describes the Future Leaders Scholars program.

Originating as a donation from College of Business alumnus Herman Wilson, this award provided free leadership training to scholars. It later became the Transformational Leaders Scholarship. Eventually, the training incorporated Franklin Covey’s leadership habits and career coaching.

Dr. Brad Mayer, professor of Management, and Dr. Mulvaney grew the program by teaching “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students,” a rendition of Covey’s “The 7 Habits of Effective College Students,” and teaching leadership

During their inaugural year, Future Leaders Scholars participated in numerous community events, including helping local nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace in April 2024. (From left) Paul Howell, Future Leaders Scholar Daniela Contreras, Daniela’s mother, Toni Mulvaney, and Bryson Constance.



## FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARS PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2023-2024

My name is Daniela Contreras, and I am an accounting major in the College of Business. I was a first-year student when Dr. Toni Mulvaney and Dr. Brad Mayer implemented "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students" as part of the Cardinal Communities. We met a couple times that Spring to brainstorm and outline the next steps as we built the program. It officially launched in the academic year of 2023-2024. Scholars served as peer mentors for Cardinal Communities at an introductory seminar in the Fall and an eight-week course of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students" in the Spring. "Life skills are important," Dr. Mayer said. "I'm talking about interpersonal skills that employers find very helpful in succeeding." After that Fall semester in 2022, I became a candidate for the Future Leaders Scholars program. I had to take a self-paced seminar on "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" in the Spring and pass the certification from Franklin Covey at the end of the semester. The certification program was paid for by the College of Business.



The online seminar included weekly or bi-weekly meetings with a staff mentor. "One of the habits of the main 7 Habits is 'Put First Things First'—setting priorities. It really teaches having that mentor there to hold you accountable so that you have the right priorities," Dr. Mayer said. "The more scholars share the 7 Habits, the more it'll build a culture in the College of Business of what it takes to live by the 7 Habits." At Fall, Future Leaders Scholars either volunteered or worked with STAR Services and peer mentored Cardinal Communities. We had two mentors per section with a pro mentor per class. Volunteers were also encouraged to train with STAR Services. I felt empowered in the relationship while working with a mentor. This network of students, peers, faculty, and staff gave me confidence and set me up to successfully become a leader at Lamar University. In the Spring, we taught the 7 Habits to our LU peers, with the aim of training our peers on soft skills and nurturing success. After passing the course and certification, those students were invited to join as Future Leaders Scholars. Since accounting internships are common and the Spring and Summer semesters, because

honors alumnus Edward Doan—  
Class of 2020—in January 2024.)

Madison began her mentorship journey after finding an informal mentor in her sorority sister through Alpha Delta Pi. Madison then helped the College of Business design its young professionals curriculum, serving on the Executive Committee of the board in the beginning stages.

"We really wanted to be as advantageous as possible. We were

## Spotlight

The Reaud Honors College holds the distinction of being the oldest Honors Program in the Texas State University System (TSUS). Twenty students registered for Fall 1963, the first-ever semester of the Honors

## TSUS Student Regent

Governor Greg Abbott appointed Kelvin Elgar (above, first row, far right) the non-voting student regent for 2023-2024. The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Zaid Mohammed (below) earned the highly coveted TSUS Regents' Student Scholarship in November 2023.

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Alumna Focus



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year will offer new events, an updated seminar, and a peer mentor system led by the current class.

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experiences we've shared. I love that we've deeply into the world of robotics. Ryan After a year of trial and error, new encourage each other." Servantes, an athlete on LU's Crossideas and plans have emerged for the

Instead of competing, the RLI Country team, managed to balanceuture of the Reaud Leadership Institute. focuses on uplifting and supporting sports and his academic study as a inaugural class's feedback and each other as we all embark on our Biology Pre-Vet Medicine freshman,opinions were welcomed and encouraged. separate journeys at Lamar Universitywhile also seeking out experientialAll of us are dedicated to giving the next Excellence is best achieved with learning opportunities. In the upcomingincoming class an experience that goes support system, which all Reaudacademic year, he will serve as a civibeyond and builds upon the current Fellows provide for one another. leader on the board of Stable Spiritprogram. To add even more prestige and

Beyond bonding on campus andas part of the Reaud Honors Collegelearning to the Institute, the upcoming at events centered around the ReaudStepping Up initiative.

Honors College, Reaud Fellows Dr. ibodeaux took a chance regularly hang out together outside ofwhen creating the Reaud Leadership the classroom. Getting to know eachInstitute, painstakingly creating a other at a personal level has createdcurriculum that she felt would be strong connections and helped unenriching, developing a Minor in become closer as a team. Honors Studies lled with classes

Given the variety of majors andmeant to enlighten students, and interests that exist within the RLI coordinating workshops and events group, we also branched out on ourfor the fellows to attend to enhance own adventures. Chemical Engineeringtheir professional development. is sophomore Peyton Lee, Accountingwas no easy feat.

and Finance sophomore Peyton Jones, and Accounting sophomore Soleil Tran utilized the skills learned in their seminar to secure internship opportunities. Electrical Engineering junior Bobby Barton helped expand the Robotic Cardinals program on campus, creating opportunities for college and high school students to delve more

Reaud Fellows Jenny Tu and Elizabeth Diaz Arreola got to meet Beaumont Mayor Roy West at the City of Beaumont's State of the City event in December 2023. Citizens gathered to hear from city leaders and stakeholders about Beaumont's accomplishments this year as well as the city's goals and priorities for 2024.

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Class of 2023 Law Underdogs:

Callahan says helped her figure out her character's role in supporting the British. "Being arguing with other players helped me a lot too," Callahan said. "I knew by debating, we had a chance to delay voting. So I made myself be out there as much as possible. Overall, I gained so much valuable skills from that game—still didn't like [playing] it," she( )TJ 0.065 aherid. IRoj poid. al mlsethe





# CHANGEMAKERS

Taking creative action to solve social problems

Reaud Honors students presented their findings at the following conferences during 2023-2024: **American Society for Microbiology National Conference 2023**: Stephanie Barron. **McNair Scholars Research Symposium 2023**: Ryan Shugart. **O.U.R. Expo 2024**: Helena Bautista-Mathias, Kaitlyn Cherry, Daniela Contreras, Deidre Dages, Karen Figueroa, George Godsi, Laci Graham, Kristin Hebert, Alexa Heng, Mohamed Irhabi, Sergio Mendez, Jordan Nelson, Victoria Nguyen, Rima Shaaban, Tyler Stuck, and Adeline Tran. **International Day of Women in Science 2024**: Estrella Balderas, Kaitlyn Cherry, Megan Do, Victoria Nguyen, Rima Shaaban, Adeline Tran, and Amer WAcn haan,rhonfWomen4hiT4d1m /Tw o(r)-4./30 ( )]TJ 0.5 (Exp)10 (o)0.5 (2024:)]TJ 001 11 k /GS0 gs 0 Tc 0 Tw 2.147 0 Td ( an,)30 La-99Tf -0.015 Tc 0.129 Tw 0.307 0 Td -5

## Honors Awards

The Reaud Honors College is proud to announce our inaugural awards recognizing Honors Students of the Year and Honors Faculty of Distinction, launched in our 60th anniversary year and during Lamar University's centennial celebration. Our Honors student body continued our rich tradition of recognizing the Honors Professor of the Year. Congratulations to our prestigious recipients!

Honors Faculty of Distinction: **Dr. Bianca Easterly (Associate Professor of Political Science)**, shown below with Dean ibodeaux

Honors Professor of the Year: **Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor (Associate Professor of Biology)**, shown below with incoming HSA President Rima Shaaban, who presented the award on behalf of HSA

Honors Student of the Year - Community: **Annabelle Broussard (Chemical Engineering graduating senior)**, shown below, at left

Honors Student of the Year - Leadership: **Kelvin Elgar (Chemical Engineering graduating senior)**, shown below, center

Honors Student of the Year - Research and Scholarship: **Jennyfer Zarate (Biology Pre-Med graduating senior)**, shown below, at right

"What does someone even do at Nike?" Chemical Engineering senior **Isaac Ramirez** can tell you! As a Product Creation Engineer intern at Nike, he had the unique opportunity to help create an (eate senior,)-egr

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# HELLO from our Dean

Greetings Honors College Cardinals and Alumni,

It has been a very exciting year in the Reaud Honors College!

The Reaud Honors College has completed its inaugural year of the Reaud Leadership Institute where nine outstanding scholars declared a minor in Honors Studies and committed to leading while they serve the Lamar community and beyond. The Reaud Leadership Institute is comprised of Southeast Texas Legends Scholars and Presidential Scholars, all of whom were awarded a full-ride scholarship to Lamar University, making up the top 4% of the honors student body. This past year, Reaud Leadership Institute students joined LU Ambassadors for Social Etiquette training and networking, participated in a Scholars Development Seminar as a cohort, attended our Top Scholars Banquet in their honor, volunteered at Honors Scholars Day, and participated in a Study Away experience with the Partners in the Park Program to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, with members of the National Collegiate Honors Council. We are looking forward to an outstanding new crop of Reaud Leadership Institute students this upcoming year.

The Honors College has positioned itself to be the epicenter of innovation and collaboration through

## Reaud Foundation's Bicycles and Bibles: Winter Break Honors Experience

During Winter Break, Honors Student Association members helped spread holiday cheer to local families in need at the Reaud Foundation's "Bicycles and Bibles" event. (Front row) Sergio Mendez, Michael Vu, Daisy Calero Estrella, Adeline Tran, Elizabeth Drago, Annalise Briggs, and Kindall Saunier.

(Back row) Megan Do, Montana Di Leo, Peyton Jones, Alyvia Ott, Alyssa Harper, and Bobby Barton.

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