

SHINE & RISE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

THE HONORS COLLEGE

William Monroe, Dean

SHINE & RISE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Director of Communications

Martha S. Hayes

Communications Coordinator

Julia Brown

Staff Photographer/Videographer

Brenda Cruz-Wolf

Lead Writer

Mallory Chesser ('08)

Writer

Daniel Wallace

uh.edu/honors

COVER: A homage to Abbey Road, the final album of the Beatles' collective career, the cover photo was taken at the crossroads in front of E. Cullen Hall. Whatever paths they choose, we wish great success to our students, alumni, and graduates.



The College That Gave Us So Much



Monica and Morgan:

To Houstonians, the rain on the morning of the 2015 Honors Retreat was nothing but normal and mostly inconvenient. To two incoming freshmen, from Arlington and Mission, Texas, this was a downpour. Drenched from the

rain, we still utilized the opportunity to meet our mentors and Human Situation professors, and to form life-long friendships. Retreat helped ease the transition into college by establishing a strong support network we would come to rely on. The red burn-on bracelet would be the first of many for us.

Morgan: As soon as I arrived at Honors, I began looking for ways to get involved in the College. I was granted the opportunity to serve as an Advocate Co-Coordinator which allowed me to kick-start my involvement in Honors. Although phoneathons are a scholarship requirement, they also allowed me to observe and gain appreciation for the College's overall process from recruitment to admissions. Meeting students at Open House, which introduced students to the Honors community, and then again at the Honors Retreat always brought me joy.

The Student Services Office became a home away from home with my own new family. Through the long shifts and tight deadlines, I've come to greatly appreciate that office and the people who have stationed themselves within it. After three years, the connections made with faculty, staff, and students alike have been some of the most rewarding aspects of my college experience.

Monica: I was convinced to volunteer with the Student Governing Board Events Committee to help organize the complexities of a typical SGB Halloween Party. Events committee highlights the opportunity for busy students to choose their commitment level. I quickly chose to be a part of the officer board for four years of heartwarming service to the Honors College community. By hosting events like Post-Convocation Casino Night and Coffeehouse, I have had the immense pleasure of serving the community that has welcomed me with open arms.

From Omega student to Alpha Team Assistant, the Human Situation course has been critical to my academic and personal growth. This foundation course within our curriculum truly outlines the value of engaging with text for students of all majors. Even after the stress of writing lecture papers and preparing for oral finals, I fully understand that the reason we read great books is so that when we're old and grey we can have interesting conversations with ourselves.

Monica and Morgan: Our experience with the Honors College Mentorship Program continuously brought us back to Retreat, growing our burn-on bracelet count to four. Through this program, we made countless friends, supported incoming students, and most importantly, welcomed the Honors College as our new home. As we capitalized on the countless opportunities available, the two of us have grown seemingly inseparable. So much so that the late Andy Little referred to us as the "Honors Royal Couple." After removing our burn-on bracelets and transitioning into Honors College alumni, we look forward to continuing to give back to the College that gave us so much.

Monica Marin
Morgan Biscoe





Phronésis:
Politics and Ethics

EGIS

EE

CAROLI SECUNDI.

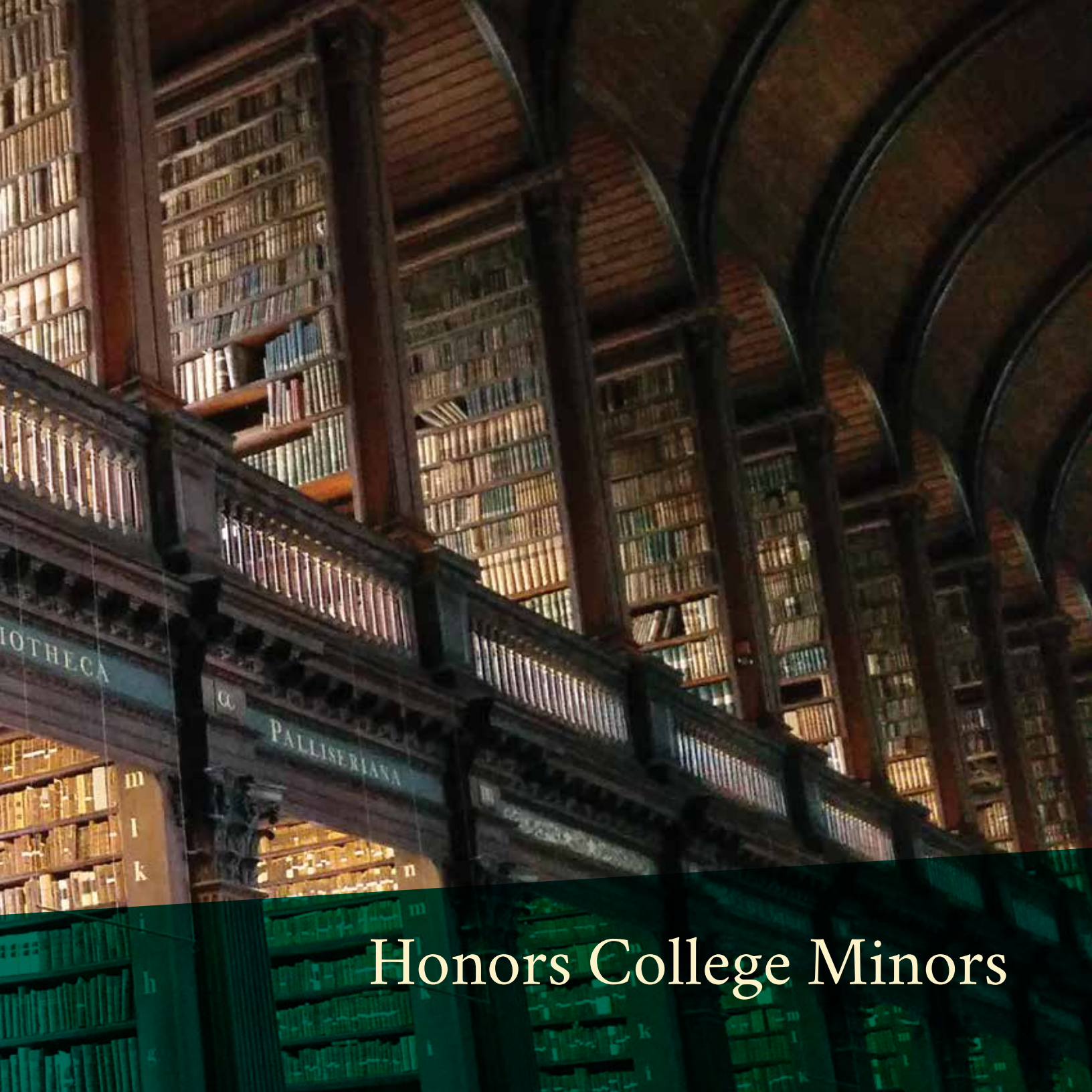
FF

BIBL

n
m
l
k
i
h

p
o
n
m
l

k
i



IOTHECA

CC

PALLISERIANA

m
l
k

Honors College Minors

Phronêsis: Politics and Ethics

The *Phronêsis*: Politics and Ethics program engages students in the study of major works in ethics, political theory, and literature. In spring 2018, *Phronêsis* hosted the annual Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency featuring Colleen Sheehan, professor of political science at Villanova University and former member of the House of Representatives for the state of Pennsylvania. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, the program also hosted a Great Books seminar series, a Shakespeare reading group and film series, and a fall convocation.





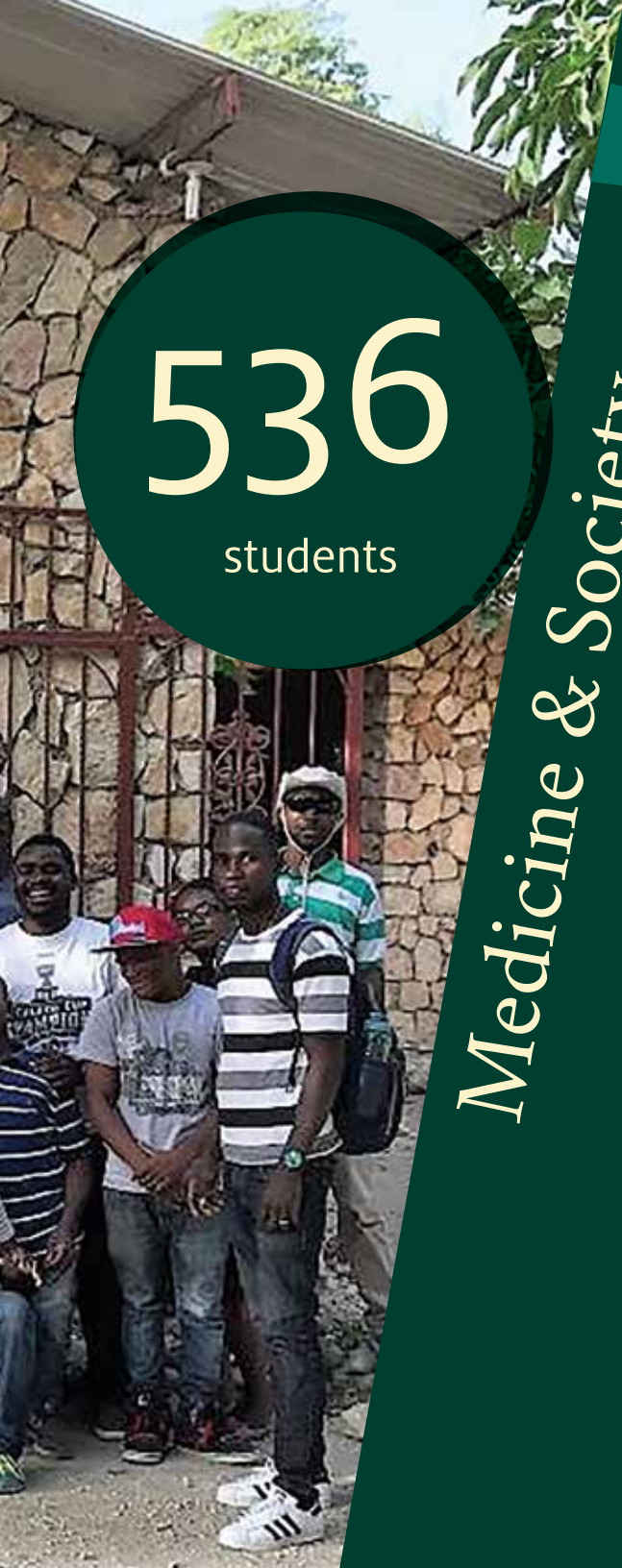


536
students

Medicine & Society

Designed to supplement the traditional health care training students receive in professional school, the Medicine & Society minor and program offers courses focused on the historical, anthropological, literary, and human-centered aspects of medicine and health. Since its founding in 2005, Medicine & Society has become one of the most celebrated medical humanities programs in the country. In spring 2018, approximately 125 students graduated with the Medicine & Society minor, and more than 500 students remain active in the program.

In collaboration with Creative Work, Medicine & Society co-sponsored a March 2018 panel called *The Art of Understanding: Community, Narrative, and Healing*. The panel featured new faculty member Max Rayneard, co-founder and director of *The Telling Project*, a performing arts non-profit that allows veterans and military personnel to share their stories. The Medicine & Society program also hosted a Medicine and the Arts lecture and film series throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.



Leadership Studies

All students minoring in leadership studies take the signature course, Leadership Theory and Practice, to get an overview of major leadership theories, build skills, and begin to put their findings into practice in real-world scenarios. Students in the minor also attend the annual Grand Challenges Forum, a speaker series, which last year included diplomat Oni Blair, civil rights activist Virgil Wood, Hewlett Packard CEO Antonio Neri (speaking in the photo), and a variety of other leaders in their fields.







Energy and Sustainability

The interdisciplinary Energy and Sustainability minor features courses from a variety of fields for the collective purpose of promoting the study of sustainable energy. Thanks to a gift in summer 2018 from Equinor ASA, a Norwegian petroleum and wind energy company formerly known as Statoil ASA, six students each received \$1,000 scholarships for the fall and spring semesters.

The Equinor Scholars Program also connects these students with employers working in their field of interest, providing them the opportunity to learn directly from professionals in the energy industry.

In spring 2018, Creative Work's signature Artists and Their Region course invited students to engage in an interactive study of Donald Barthelme's Houston. Barthelme, a student and professor at the University of Houston and later a co-founder of the celebrated Creative Writing Program, was heavily influenced by the city of Houston. He is arguably the most significant writer the city has produced. Students read Barthelme's witty and surrealistic fiction, visited local museums and landmarks, and attended a reception hosted by the current owners of Barthelme's one-time home.

In February 2018, Creative Work hosted a reading and conversation with noted novelist and essayist David Lazar.

Creative Work







Curricular Programs



VOLUNTEER

 **Plano**
City of Excellence

 live green
in plano



Fall 2017 marked the 15th anniversary of the Bauer Honors Program, which offers a specialized business curriculum as well as an immersive, Honors experience. The program celebrated the occasion at its annual fall mixer, which begins the bonding experience for Bauer Honors' more than 350 students. The program offers freshman mentor and sophomore leadership programs, along with several social and networking events throughout the year.

The program boasts a freshman retention rate of 97%, and more than 90% of students complete at least one internship during their time as an undergraduate.

350
students

Bauer Business Honors Program

Honors Engineering Program

The Honors Engineering Program is a joint effort of the Cullen College of Engineering and the Honors College, giving students the best of both worlds—professional training and a solid foundation in the liberal arts.

Honors engineering courses focus on fostering creativity, open-ended thinking, and engineering design. Many students find internships and other opportunities by virtue of their participation in the program.

514

students









Co-Curricular Programs



Service Learning

Bonner Leaders Program

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 105 members of the UH Bonner Leaders Program developed and executed long-term, sustainable service projects designed to combat the effects of poverty on health, food, and education in the local community.

Through the Campus Kitchen food recovery program, Bonner students recovered and redistributed food to 600 residents of

low-income housing locations throughout Houston. Through the Cultivate gardening initiative, 130 residents of low-income neighborhoods were given access to green spaces and fresh produce. Nearly 200 underserved middle and high school students throughout Houston received tutoring, test prep, and college advising through Bonner's ImpACT, Lobo Prep, and Writing to Inspire Success programs.

Service Learning

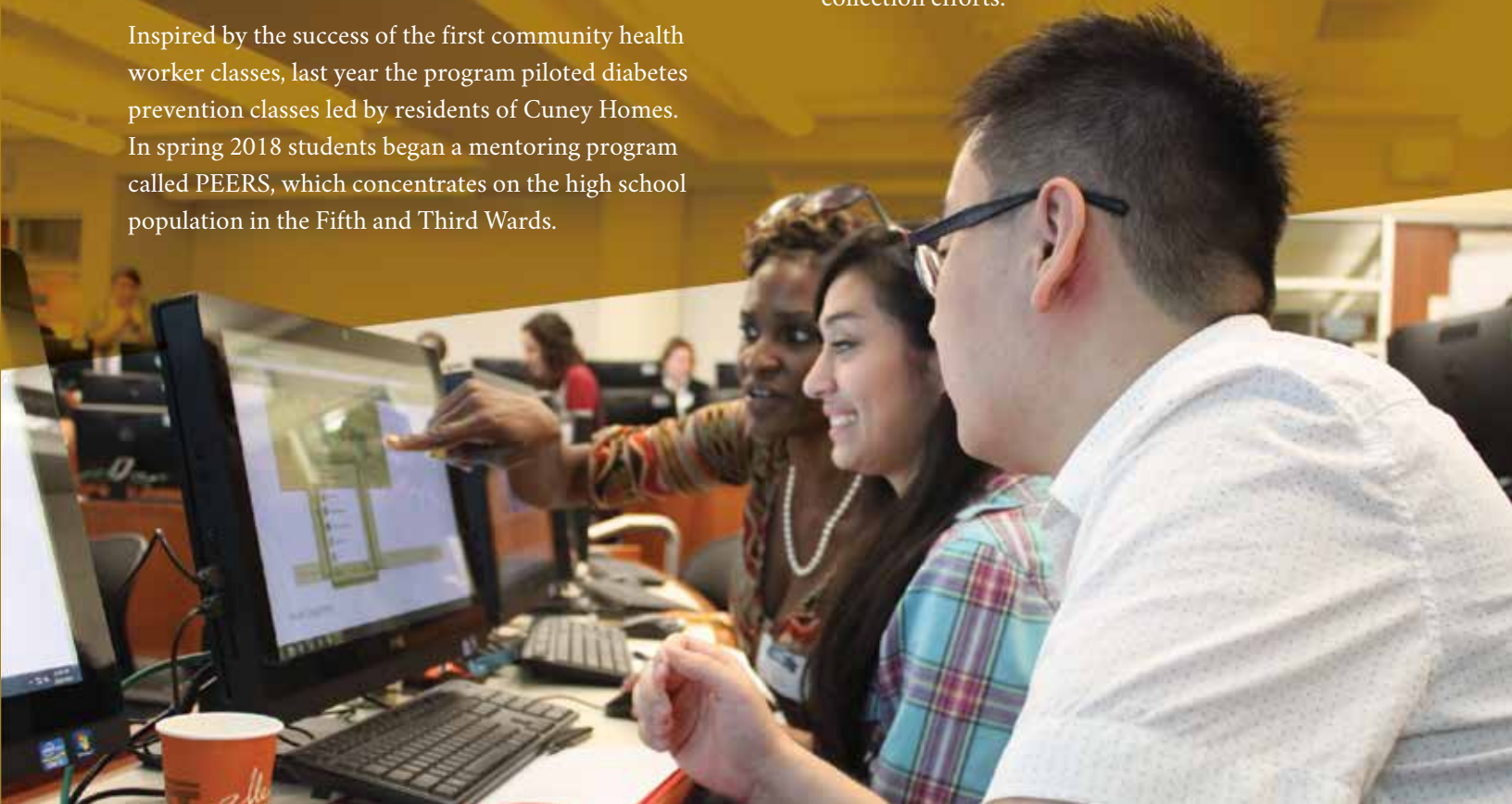
Honors in Community Health (HICH)

The Honors in Community Health (HICH) initiative has a substantial presence in the Third Ward, working alongside residents to build sustainable community health initiatives. The HICH model allows residents to take the lead on community health projects, supported by students and staff from the University of Houston. Community partners include the Houston Independent School District, the Health Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and others.

Inspired by the success of the first community health worker classes, last year the program piloted diabetes prevention classes led by residents of Cuney Homes. In spring 2018 students began a mentoring program called PEERS, which concentrates on the high school population in the Fifth and Third Wards.

Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)

Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH) is a service learning program which seeks to use the developing field of Big Data to find solutions for community health issues. In fall 2017, students in the program volunteered to help with the consequences of Tropical Storm Harvey. Armed with sterile containers, gloves, and training provided by the Houston Health Department, the students collected water samples from area bayous twice a week for a month to assist the health department's ongoing collection efforts.







Egypt

Galápagos



Haiti



Israel & Greece

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad





M-Level Programs

Students participating in Model Debate develop leadership skills and learn about the social, economic, cultural, and political issues facing world leaders. While open to students across the University of Houston campus, the program is administratively housed in the Honors College.

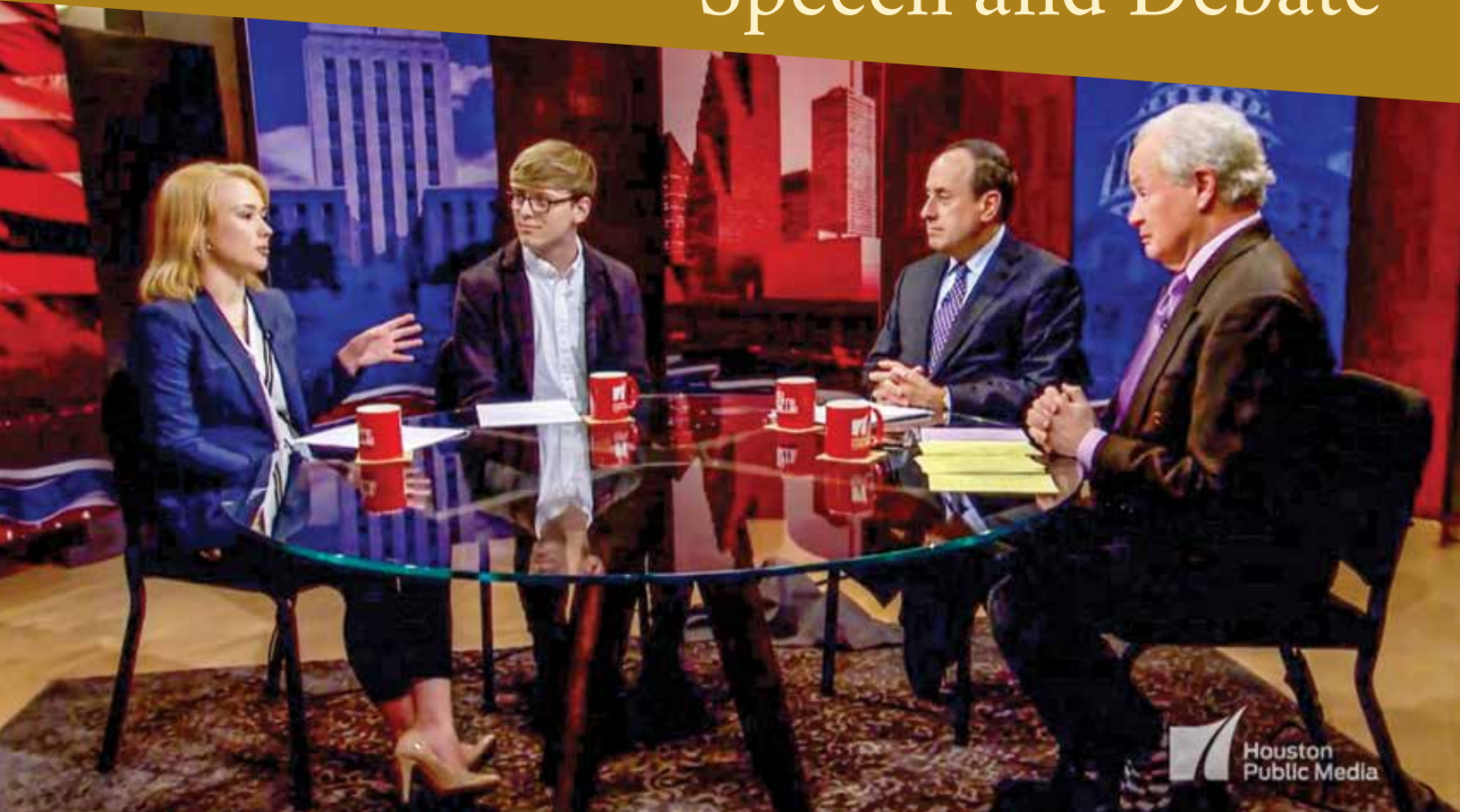
Students of all academic majors gain valuable leadership training through public speaking and discussion, writing and editing, interpersonal relations, and cross-cultural dialogue.

Participants also gain a better understanding of key issues such as international affairs, economic growth, migration, trade agreements, climate change, and more.

Pictured below is the UH delegation with Iraqi Ambassador Fareed Yasseen, who graciously hosted the team at his Washington, D.C. residence for a roundtable discussion about the state of affairs in Iraq and the greater region.



Speech and Debate



In 2018, students in the University of Houston's Speech & Debate Program traveled to Las Vegas to participate in a tournament hosted by the University of Nevada, where their outstanding performance saw the program move one slot up in the 2017-2018 national rankings.

In addition, the team hosted its annual Cougar Classic debate tournament, which included 300 competitors from more than 50 schools. UH Speech & Debate students also successfully began mentorship programs for underserved students in the Houston Independent School District.

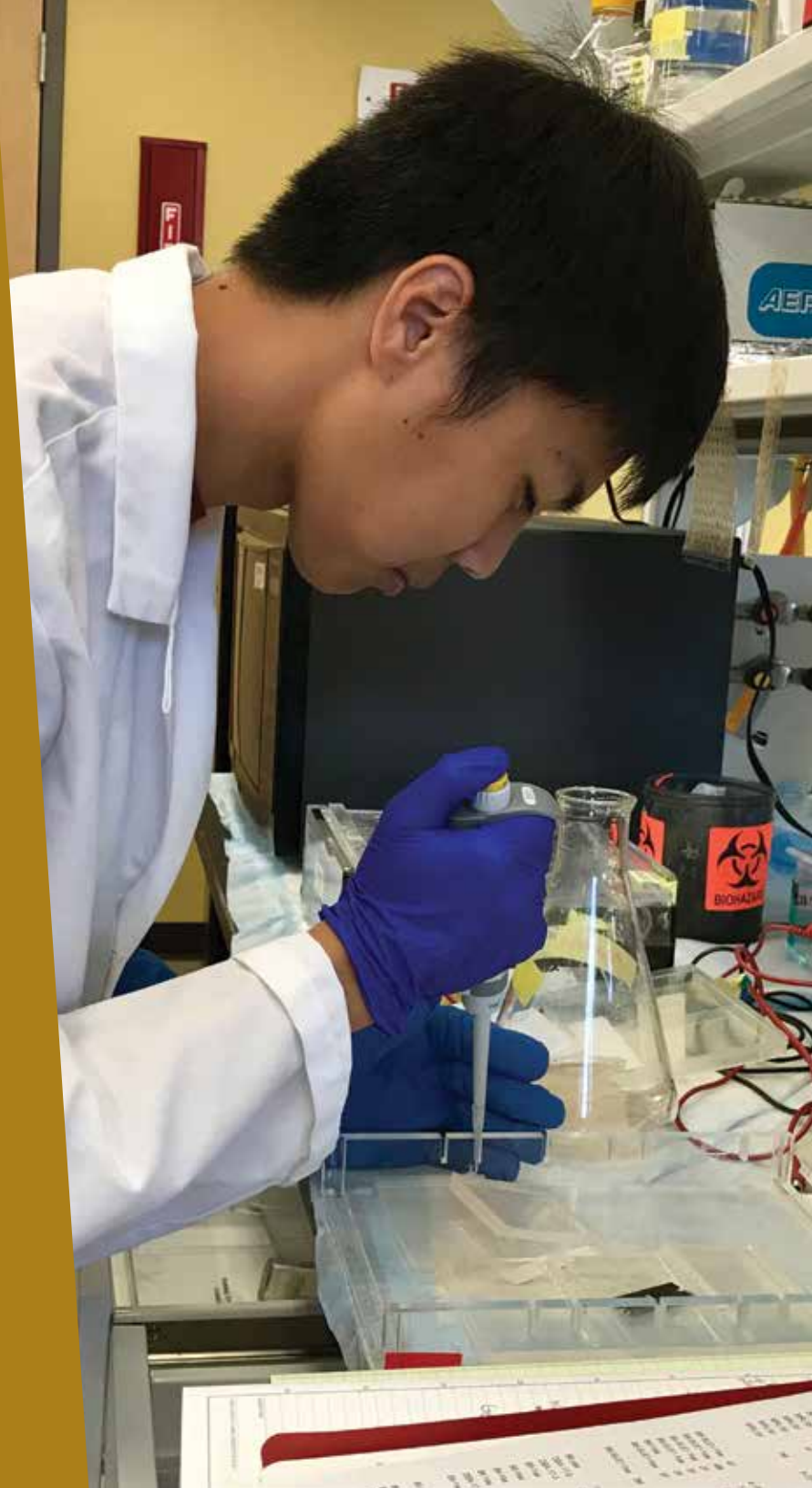
Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research welcomes students from all disciplines to complete undergraduate research and to apply for competitive scholarship, fellowship, and internship opportunities. Last year, students completed 275 mentored research projects through the Office of Undergraduate Research, expanding their knowledge beyond the classroom.

By offering advisement for major award and fellowship opportunities to students across the University of Houston campus, OUR helped to increase the number of UH students receiving major awards and scholarships by more than 70% from the year before—in 2017-2018, 31 students were recipients or finalists for major awards, including six Fulbright award winners.

In May 2018, nearly 50 sophomore and juniors were introduced to the fundamentals of research through the two-week Houston Early Research Experience (HERE).

Spring 2018 also marked the first cohort of Mellon Scholars. Supported by a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation, 60 underrepresented students and other undergraduates committed to the goal of building a diverse academy in the humanities will work one-on-one with faculty mentors outside the classroom on independent research projects.





Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends of the Honors College,

In this issue of *Shine and Rise*, we reflect on the highlights of the 2017-2018 academic year—a year of flourishing learning abroad and learning away programs, the 15th anniversary of the Bauer Honors Program, and a boom year for major award recipients, undergraduate research participants, and the number of students enrolled in one of our interdisciplinary minors.

These accomplishments are the culmination of several years of significant growth in the size, scope, and standing of the Honors College. At the same time, through the University's "Here, We Go" campaign, which raised more than \$1 billion, we have been able to elevate the profile of the University in the Houston community and beyond.

As we look to the future of the Honors College and the more than 2,500 students we serve, we know that dedicated faculty are key to our continued success. In 2017, we established the Bee and Kee Wong Engagement Awards for faculty whose work with students includes learning beyond the classroom. In 2018, we awarded five Lerner Faculty Fellowships and eleven Lerner Family Lecture Awards to recognize excellence in teaching and academic leadership.

The University's campaign will continue "Beyond the Billion" through August 2020, and during this time we will strive to establish endowments to recruit and retain outstanding faculty talent and ensure the continued vitality of our academic and co-curricular programs.

During the next year, we hope to propose a new minor in Data Science & Society, building on the success of Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH) and the Honors in Community Health (HICH) program. This minor would create opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in a growing field, using data analysis to serve our community and to tackle everyday challenges.

We will also seek to expand our learning abroad and learning away programs into a new Global Engagement and Research minor. In the last year, 91 students have received a Lerner Family Scholarship to support a learning away or learning abroad experience. Finally, through a new honors engagement designation, Co-Curricular Honors, we seek to encourage students from across the University to take advantage of all that the Honors College has to offer and to recognize those who do.

Continued support from our alumni and friends is vital as we continue to enhance the quality and reputation of our nationally-recognized Honors College. Please enjoy these updates, and we hope to see you soon—at a football game this fall, an alumni mixer, or when you drop by the office of your favorite professor. Keep in touch, and keep sharing with us your news and accomplishments.

Go Coogs!

Bill Monroe
Dean





The Great Conversation

The Honors College held its 26th annual Great Conversation fundraiser in March.



18

Graduation Banquet

The Areté award is presented to students at the graduation banquet, recognizing their outstanding service to the Honors College.

THE HONORS COLLEGE 2018 ADVISORY BOARD

Ron Bankston

Briana Bassler

Ben Bosco

Tim Brown

Blake Cantley

Alejandro Capetillo

Butch Cersonsky

Martin Cominsky

Jeff Dodd

Fermeen Fazal

Vince Foster

Michael Gapinski

Sean Gorman

Michael Harlan

Steven Hecht

John King, President

Michael Lore

Carl Moerer

Alex Obregon

Christian Sarkar

Faisal Shah

Matt Steele

Karen Webster

Trey Wilkinson

William Monroe, Dean
O'Connor Abendshein Professor



Honors College Advisory Board members and alumni provide support for the vision and the programs of the College.

GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE HONORS COLLEGE

Mrs. Susannah and Mr. Justin Abbott

Mrs. Merry Adamcik

Dr. Karen Adkins

Mr. Anjay Ajodha

Mrs. Joan and Mr. Stanford Alexander

Mrs. Missy and Mr. Paul Anderson

Mrs. Becky and Mr. Truman Arnold

Augustana College

Ms. Blair Ault

Mrs. Olga and Mr. Gerald Balboa

Ms. Sandras and Mr. Federico Banos-Lindner

Mrs. Hannah Barker

Ms. Briana Bassler and Mr. Barrett Estess

Mrs. Kathie Bassler

The Bayou Fund

Dr. Robert Berry

Dr. Sara and Mr. Mark Bettencourt

Mrs. Carrie and Mr. Agustin Blanco

Mrs. Ginger and Mr. David Blomstrom

Mrs. Karie and Mr. Benadetto Bosco

Dr. Ellen Bourdeau and Mr. Charles Hoke

Ms. Deborah Brochstein and Mr. Steven Hecht

Mrs. Katherine and Mr. Larry Buck

Mrs. Fran and Mr. Thomas Callahan

Campus Kitchens Project Inc.

Dr. Thomas Carothers

Mr. Richard Carpenter

Ms. Helen Casanova

Mr. Jason Casero

Mr. Abel Chacko

Mr. Jonas Chin

Mr. Geoffery Chow

Mrs. Jane and Mr. Robert Cizik

Dr. Nicola Clegg

Mrs. Terry and Mr. Martin Cominsky

Dr. Steven Crockett

Ms. Anne Cronin

Mr. Thaddeus DeJesus

Mr. Timothy Devetski

Mr. Danny Dexter

Ms. Erin Dietsch

Ms. Rita Dobbs

Dochen-Joseph Family Fund
of Austin Community Foundation

Mrs. Kira and Mr. Chris Dodd

Ms. Avon Duson

Mrs. Andrea Lewis-Echols and Mr. Roderick Echols

Ms. Fermeen Fazal and Mr. Rizwan Merchant

Ms. Tanya Fazal

Mrs. April and Mr. John Feick III

Ms. Catherine Finley

Mr. Nicholas Fox

Dr. Cynthia Freeland

Mrs. Vivian and Mr. Rob Gabel

Mrs. Kimberly and Mr. Michael Gapinski

Dr. Lynn Goldman and Mr. Douglas Hayward

Ms. Kendra Gradney

Mr. Trevor Graham

Mrs. Janna and Mr. Chuck Gremillion

Dr. Megan Guelker

Ms. Dalia Guerrero

Mr. Oscar Gutierrez

Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Kim Hales

Ms. Christina Hamilton

Mrs. Bonnie and Mr. Michael Harlan

Ms. Henna Haroon

Mr. John Haynes

Mrs. Sarah and Dr. Eric Hoggard

Mr. Christopher Holley

Dr. Stephen Hollingshead

Ms. Lindsey Horne

Mrs. Lynn and Mr. Clay Hoster

Ms. Marina Ibraheim

Ms. Munizeh Jan

Mr. Tauqir Jilani

John P. McGovern Foundation

Johnson & Johnson

Ms. Elizabeth Joseph

Mrs. Samia and Mr. John Joseph

Ms. Susan Kate

Ms. Sabeeha Kathrada

Mr. William Kelly

Ms. Lori Kennedy

Mr. Yosef Kerzner

Mrs. Lisa and Mr. Junaid Khan

Mr. Mubeen Khumawala

Anne Lamkin Kinder Foundation Inc.

Mr. Dean King
Mrs. Julie and Mr. John King
Kraken Oil & Gas
Mr. James Ferea and Mr. Robert Kramp
Krause Gentle Foundation
Mr. Phu Lam
Mrs. Karla and Mr. James Lee
Mr. John Leech Jr.
Mrs. Betty and Mr. Franklin Lemmon
Mrs. Jane and Mr. Ronald Lerner
Dr. Jerry Lester
Ms. Lise Liddell
Ms. Kara Philbin and Mr. Andrew Lindquist
Mrs. Nita Lineberry
Mrs. Cheryl and Mr. Charles Listen
Mrs. Heather and Mr. Michael Lore
Ms. Candida Lubongo
Mrs. Virginia and Mr. Mario Lucchesi
Mrs. Joan Lyons
The Honorable Beth Madison
Mr. Stan Marek
Mr. Richard Martin
Ms. Kiernan Mathews and Ms. Susi Sanchez
Mr. Alan Matuszak
Mr. Kenneth Mercado
Mr. Brian Metoyer
Ms. Allison Miller and Mr. Will Holeman
Mr. Carl Moerer Jr.
Mrs. Helen Marie and Dr. William Monroe

Ms. Jocelyne Morales
Mrs. Whitney and Mr. Samuel Moseley
Mr. R.F. Moya
Mrs. Tamara Muffat and Mr. Matthew Steele
Ms. Keri Myrick
Mr. Nicholas Noecker Jr.
Mr. Robert Nowak Jr.
Mrs. Skyler and Mr. Alexander Obregon
Ms. Susan Ohsfeldt and Mr. Jeff Dodd
Mr. James Patterson
Mr. Thanh Vuong Pham
Phillips 66
Mr. Troy Pike
Dr. James Pipkin Jr.
Ms. Erin Poulin
Prometheus Charitable Trust
Mrs. Andrea and Mr. Jesse Rainbow
Mrs. Lani and Mr. William Ramsey
Ms. Carroll Robertson Ray
Dr. Brenda and Mr. Coby Rhoden
Dr. Kathy Ritchie-Fair and Mr. Richard Fair
Ms. Lillie Robertson
The Honorable Wilhelmina "Beth" Robertson
Ms. Julianna Root
Mrs. Deborah and Mr. Herbert Rothschild Jr.
Mr. Robert Royall
Ms. Cindy Schuster
Ms. Deborah Selden and Mr. Bruce Penny
Ms. Anne Sereno

Mrs. Fatiha and Mr. Faisal Shah
Mrs. Carol and Dr. David Shattuck
Mrs. Carla and Mr. Byron Smith
Mrs. Yee-Lan Lim-Smith and Mr. Kevin Smith
Mrs. Vicki and Mr. Steve Smith
Dr. Stephen Spann
Mrs. Judy and Mr. John Steele
Mr. Stefan Stojanovic
Mrs. Cecile and Dr. Jerald Strickland
Ms. Samantha Terrones-Martinez
Mrs. Connie and Mr. Dusky Terry
Mr. Charles Thompson II
Ms. Olivia Thompson
Ms. Jessina Tom
Mr. John Vaughn
Dr. Karen Weber
Mrs. Karen and Mr. Andrew Webster
Mr. Michael Webster
Ms. Madison West
Mr. Alan Westwick
Mr. Christopher White
Ms. Sara White
Dr. Kevin Whited
Mrs. Julianne Whitelaw
Mrs. Kimberly and Mr. Trey Wilkinson
Ms. Mariah Wills
The Honorable Jim P. Wise
Mrs. Patricia and Mr. Ron Wolf



The Life of the College

MINORS

Creative Work
Energy and Sustainability
Leadership Studies
Medicine & Society
Phronêsis: Politics & Ethics

CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

3+2 Honors Medicine & Society/Nursing
Dual Degree Program (UT-Houston)

3+3 Honors *Phronêsis*/Law
Dual Degree Program (UH Law)

Honors B.S./M.D. Dual Degree Program
(UT Health and UTMB-Galveston)

Honors Biomedical Sciences

The Houston Premedical Academy
(Baylor College of Medicine)

Honors Engineering Program

Bauer Business Honors Program

CO-CURRICULAR UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCES

Bonner Leaders Program
ePortfolio Program
Grand Challenges Forums
Learning Abroad and Learning Away Programs
Service Learning Programs
Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)
Honors in Community Health (HICH)
M-Level Programs
Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency
Houston Early Research Experience
Houston Scholars
Nationally Competitive Scholarships
Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship
Senior Honors Thesis
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
UH Speech and Debate Program



HOUSTON COUGARS



The Life of the College

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Common Ground Teachers Institute
Cougar Junior Scholars Summer Camp
Phi Beta Kappa Summer Academy

ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES

Omicron Delta Kappa
Phi Beta Kappa
Phi Kappa Phi

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bleacher Creatures
Club Theater
Great Conversation Student Committee
Honors Advocates
Honors Ambassadors
Honors College Mentorship Program
Honors Dodgeball

PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR *SHINE & RISE*

Brenda Cruz-Wolf
Staff Photographer

Nour Haikal
Martha Hayes
Ethan Hitchcock
Omar Jamal
Noah Kopesky
Jacob Little

Erich McMillan
Will Oram
Corinna Richardson
Chelsea Sanchez
Marina Trninic
Daniel Vincent





UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

THE HONORS COLLEGE

uh.edu/honors