



SHINE & RISE

Fall 2023 - Summer 2024
HIGHLIGHTS



The Honors College
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Foucault

The Foucault Reader

Foucault

Discipline & Punish

BABAYLAN SING BACK

GRACE NONO

ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF PHILIPPINE
FOLK BELIEFS
AND CUSTOMS

VOLUME I

Demeterio

BABAYLAN

FILIPINOS AND THE CALL OF THE INDIGENOUS

FROM THE CROCODILE'S BELLY

CENTER FOR
BABAYLAN
STUDIES



Heidi Appel, Dean

SHINE & RISE

Fall 2023 - Summer 2024
HIGHLIGHTS

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A LETTER FROM THE DEAN



Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends,

I am proud to share with you this issue of *Shine & Rise* to showcase the outstanding quality of the Honors College and the accomplishments of our students.

The Honors Experience is multidimensional, just like our students. Intellectually challenging courses emphasize speaking, writing, critical inquiry through conversation, active learning and thinking across academic disciplines for students of all majors. Experiential learning opportunities, from undergraduate research to community engagement, encourage students to apply what they learn to academic and societal challenges. A community of highly motivated peers inspires them to excel. We believe these are all key to creating agile and innovative thinkers, lifelong learners, and engaged citizens. You will meet one of the many amazing students embodying these goals on page seven.

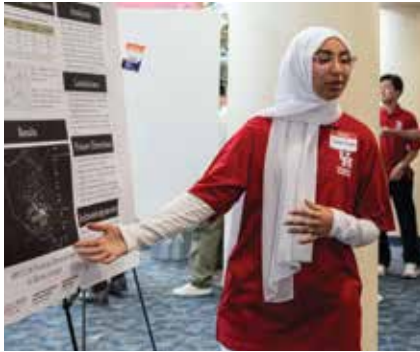
This success is made possible by the outstanding faculty and staff who teach and mentor our students and by our many collaborators across the University.

It is also made possible by you. So many of the student opportunities and accomplishments in the Honors College arise from the generosity of our friends and alumni. You have supported scholarships making participation in the Honors College possible for more students. You have supported activities in our interdisciplinary minors, learning abroad and away programs, exploration of Houston's vibrant arts and culture, and professional development of our faculty. You have volunteered your time with the College on boards and committees.

Each has helped us to maintain the level of excellence that transformed your life, or of someone you know. We thank you for this from the bottom of our Honors heart.

Please be in touch – we love to hear about the journeys that brought you to today!





ENTERING CLASS OF 2023-2024

704
INCOMING STUDENTS

464
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



14
FULBRIGHT RECIPIENTS

56
TERRY SCHOLARS

34
INCOMING NATIONAL MERIT
AND TIER ONE RECIPIENTS

STUDENT LETTER

Alyssa Green ('24)



As all good stories start, mine starts with an email. From a single click on my Honors College acceptance email, I had no idea I would be opening myself to a world of academic exploration and community. Before Honors, education had been a simple facet of my life. I spent most of my K-12 education learning because that was what I was told to do and my classmates were mere fixtures in the same monotonous journey that school had been for me at that point. However, from my first experience with the Honors College at Scholars Invitational, I knew this next step in my journey would be different. At that time, my advisor asked me, “Well, what are you passionate about?” This small question posed to a barely-admitted freshman sparked a fundamental change in the role education would play in my future.

Now, that same question was the one I sought to answer during my time in the Honors College. My answer was not provided through a grade, or a sudden revelation, it was provided when I got involved in the College. Being a Bonner Service Leader and an Honors Ambassador were much more than co-curricular experiences, they were the foundations of my passion for advocacy. Through Bonner I worked in the Third Ward on my service project, called amplifyHER. In Honors Ambassadors, I represented the Honors College experience to incoming freshmen.

Although my organizations dealt with vastly different populations, the common thread that connected them was myself and a passion for advocacy. Finding this commonality did not come immediately. I was able to discover more about myself through the community of similarly motivated students in Honors College organizations. I discovered that community teaches you much more about yourself than what you may expect.

It was not until I was a senior, reflecting on my experience that I could see the holistic community that the Honors College has built. My peers were never posed as sources of competition. Instead, I saw them as sources of diverse thought, chances to learn new perspectives, and exciting opportunities for collaboration. The Honors College lends itself to creating communities of students who are united by much more than a title. We are united by the relentless pursuit of passions and dreams through education. My college experience was not just about getting a grade. It was about exploring the world around me through education, community, and involvement. As I attended my graduate program in the fall, I found myself unafraid. I am not scared to dream bigger than what I could previously imagine for myself. I know I am still supported by the alumni and a cohort of graduating seniors who have the same mindset as I have. And that knowledge is more powerful than anything I could have learned from a textbook.



CURRICULUM

The Human Situation

MINORS

Creative Work

Data & Society

Energy and Sustainability

Leadership Studies

Medicine & Society

Phronésis: Politics and Ethics



The Human Situation

The Human Situation course examines our cultural heritage, beginning in antiquity with classic works from the Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Christian, Islamic and Indian cultures. In the fall semester, students read the philosophers and poets of 5th-century Athens, which gave rise to the Western forms of democracy, as well as thinkers from ancient Rome, whose political structures and ideals endure as models for the contemporary world. The second semester shifts to modernity and explores how the Renaissance and Enlightenment gave birth to new ways of considering the human condition. The spring kicks off with Shakespeare, Machiavelli, Rousseau, and novelists ranging from Jane Austen to Toni Morrison.

While The Human Situation emphasizes the historical journey through the pivotal ideas and cultural movements that have shaped Western thought, its ultimate objective is not just to fulfill an academic requirement but to cultivate a liberal arts educational experience that fosters the holistic development of students.

And *that* is what makes The Human Situation such an invaluable component of the University of Houston Honors College education. By inviting students to engage honestly and critically with the ideas that have helped shape our culture, the course encourages and equips students with the priceless skills to become not just participants in the world around them thoughtful contributors to it.

Creative Work

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR

At a time when rapidly evolving technology is shaping our world, UH's interdisciplinary approach is producing graduates specially equipped to tackle the world's most urgent challenges. This vital work is only possible when you provide more opportunities, rather than fewer, to all students.

An example of that approach is the Creative Work minor, which has as its foundation course Creativity at Work. At its core, the class is about leveraging different forms of creativity from different disciplines. The course culminates in a project called Our Houston. Students write a manifesto in which they envision at least one project they aspire to complete in or for their city. It's an exploration of the deep potential of their field or vocation, seeking to answer the

question, 'What needs to be done to achieve this ideal outcome?'

Students are asked to think carefully about the communities to which they belong, how they would like to do those communities justice in the presentation, and to do so in collaboration with representatives of other Houston communities. How do these communities overlap or differ? Through what creative forms of expression can they support each other in sharing the diversity and complexity of their Houston voice?

The Creative Work minor is a prime example of the College's innovative approach and its efforts to prepare the kind of professionals our society needs most.

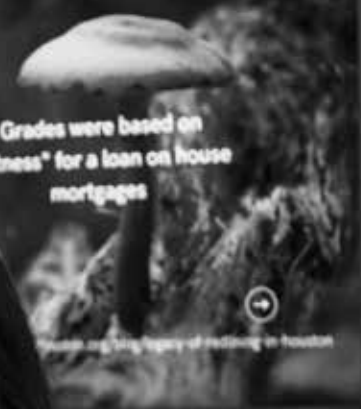




Redlining Context



- Grades were based on "fitness" for a loan on house mortgages



Grades and "fitness" maps of redlining in Houston



Data & Society

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR



The Data & Society minor aims to create paths for UH faculty, staff, and students to engage in interdisciplinary and cutting-edge research into the new paradigms of data science. It meets students where they are, without any ideological stance and allows project-based learning to bring students into better understanding of the tools of data science, especially in terms of community engagement. Students and partners learn how research questions require engagement with the humanities.

The minor explores the social impact of data science including how new techniques reflect broader economic and political systems and how these approaches impact humanities informed decision-making. Students are provided multiple pathways for engagement in research projects, publication and presentation opportunities, and includes pathways for paid research and internships. Understanding how data can be used to make an argument, how a representation is convincing or not, and how visible and grounded a decision is are all things that support the pragmatic elements of collecting, analyzing, visualizing, and representing data.



Energy and Sustainability

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR

Situated within the Energy University in the Energy Capital of the World, the minor provides an overview of the world's energy systems. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students integrate insights from engineering, environmental science, policy, economics, and social sciences to balance environmental, social, and economic considerations in energy decision-making.

The curriculum introduces students to cutting edge concepts of the traditional and emerging renewable energy sectors. The required introductory and capstone courses, combined with the wide choice of electives, gives students flexibility to learn in depth about topics of special interest or to acquire a breadth of knowledge about energy and sustainability.

Hands-on learning opportunities enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems, fostering critical thinking and insights into industry practices and emerging technologies. The minor coordinates with research and internship programs across campus to allow our students a breadth of funded co-curricular opportunities to develop skills outside of the classroom, including internships, research projects, and fieldwork.





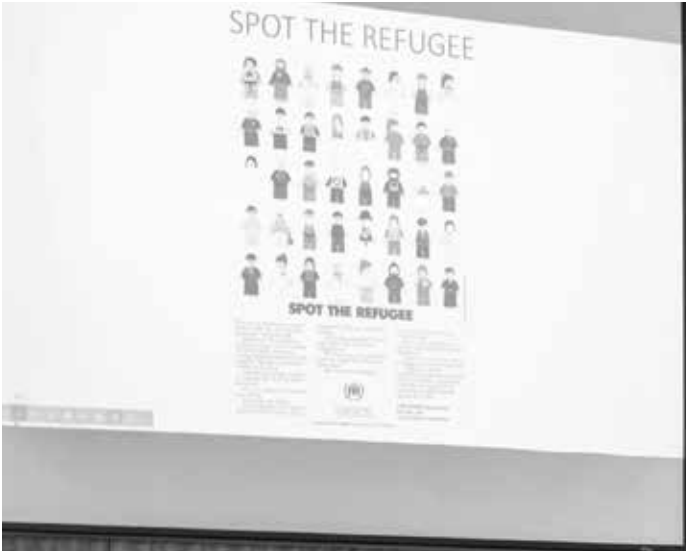
Leadership Studies

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR

The Leadership Studies minor allows students from any major to study leaders and leadership in a variety of contexts. The minor provides complementary leadership development opportunities that would include student organization leadership, leadership skills training programs, and community leadership experiences. The minor serves as an important part of the University's effort to provide development for undergraduate students.

Core courses in the minor are sequenced to meet increasingly complex sets of learning outcomes across cognitive, personal development, group/organizational domains, and global dimensions. Students are exposed to diverse theories and perspectives on leadership and are encouraged to apply analytical skills to develop their own working philosophy of leadership that will serve them in organizational contexts. Civic engagement and multicultural competence are viewed as necessary requirements for leadership.





Medicine & Society

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR



Through interdisciplinary, engaged and reflexive pedagogies, students in the Medicine & Society (MedSoc) minor are exposed to the vagaries of illness, the varieties of care, and the structures that shape health, illness, and care across local, national, and global scales.

MedSoc welcomed the inaugural group of students in the fall of 2023 to HonorsMed (HMED), a partnership with the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine (Learn more on page 27).

MedSoc is proud to mentor the student association Friends of Doctors without Borders, which organize several events throughout the year. Students also hear from socially engaged health practitioners including physicians from the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Baylor College of Medicine speaking on refugee mental health.

Phronésis: Politics and Ethics

HONORS COLLEGE MINOR

P *hronésis* is the ancient Greek word for prudence, or practical wisdom. The philosopher Aristotle identified *phronésis* as the distinctive characteristic of political leaders and citizens in reflecting on ethical and political issues that affect their individual good and the common good. The Honors College minor degree and program in Politics and Ethics, *Phronésis*, aims to cultivate in students this virtue, by developing their capacities to engage the challenging moral and political problems confronting our world today.

Building upon the Honors College's signature course, The Human Situation, the curriculum of *Phronésis* introduces students to major works in ethics, political philosophy, and classic literature. In their courses, students discuss fundamental questions and problems of political and moral concern from a wide range of perspectives. Students who choose the *Phronésis* minor degree can also become active in a co-curricular program with a strong community fostered by interdisciplinary faculty in political science, philosophy, history, and classical studies.



Students in *Phronésis* come to understand the tradition of civic education that is a central principle within the liberal education appropriate to free human beings and citizens. Through the study of the inherited wisdom of the past, we prepare ourselves to meet the challenges of our own times and learn the virtues of citizenship that sustain the civic institutions of a democratic republic: freedom of thought, open inquiry, civil discussion, and the exercise of reasoned judgment.



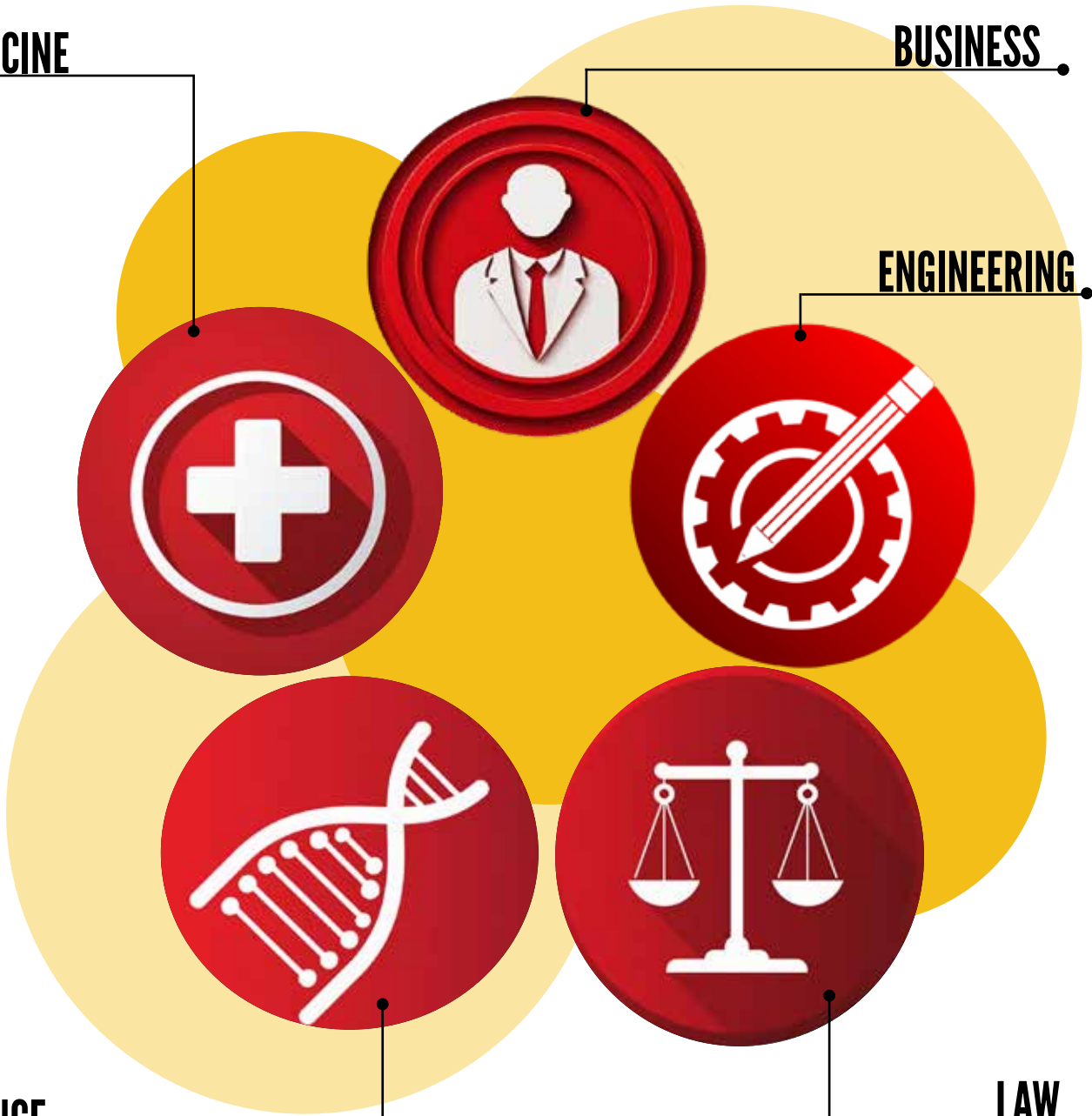
MEDICINE

BUSINESS

ENGINEERING

SCIENCE

LAW



CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Bauer Business Honors Program

Cullen Honors Program

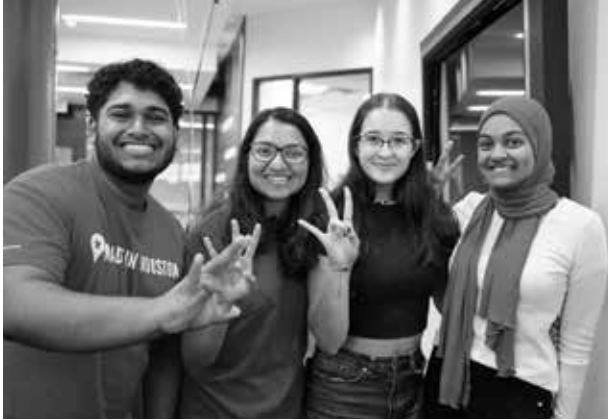
HonorsMed

Honors Biomedical Sciences

Houston Premedical Academy

3+3 Honors Law Dual Degree Program

BAUER BUSINESS HONORS PROGRAM



The Bauer Business Honors Program features a specialized business Honors curriculum, complemented by networking and social events tailored for business majors in the Honors College. Students benefit from small, discussion-based classes that foster close collaboration with faculty, involvement in compelling research projects, case studies, and rigorous writing tasks.

With a robust curriculum and numerous chances to connect with alumni and industry contacts, Bauer Honors equips students with a distinct competitive edge as they embark on careers or pursue advanced studies. Bauer Honors provides a wide variety of events and activities tailored to help students make connections, network with employers and alumni, and establish relationships with faculty and staff.



In the 2023-2024 academic year, Bauer Honors Professor Joseph Thompson, led a learning abroad trip to Greece during spring break. Bauer Honors students attended guest lectures and corporate site visits in Athens while experiencing the culture of Greece. This year, Bauer Honors also celebrated 10 years in the Bauer Honors Commons, a study lounge and two connected classrooms that house all business Honors classes. Students enjoyed community building events such as an escape room challenge, Picnic in the Park, and Trivia Night, as well as opportunities to connect with Bauer Honors alumni at the Annual Bauer Honors Fall Mixer and Coffee and Career Conversations events.



CULLEN HONORS PROGRAM

A joint endeavor between the Honors College and the Cullen College of Engineering, the Cullen Honors Program encourages engineering and technology students to take a bold approach to their education by making connections between their courses, exploring the real-world applications of their studies, pursuing undergraduate research, and leading in their extracurricular pursuits. Students in the Cullen Honors Program join a cohort that will challenge and support them throughout their four years and post-graduation.

Director of the Cullen Honors Program, Alex Landon, led a learning abroad trip this year on Connecting Coastal Resilience: From the Greater Houston Area to Cullen Honors' Leadership Engagement and Professionalism (LEAP) Program mentors first-year students by sophomores juniors, and seniors from their major. It is a program of professional development workshops, social events, and one-on-one mentorship meet-ups. This year, LEAP has expanded its student reach by 36%.

Director of the Cullen Honors Program, Alex Landon, led a learning abroad trip this year focused on Connecting Coastal Resilience: From the Greater Houston Area to the Netherlands which took Cullen Honors and Bauer Honors students to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague.





HMed

The HonorsMed (HMed) Program, established in 2023 through a partnership between the University of Houston's Honors College and the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, selects six high school students each year for a conditional pathway to medical school. Applications have doubled since its launch. Participants complete a bachelor's degree at UH while fulfilling Honors requirements and a Medicine & Society minor, with the option to choose any major. The program also offers activities to connect students with medical professionals, enhancing their experience before entering medical school.



Honors Biomedical Sciences

Housed in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Honors Biomedical Sciences degree program is a joint initiative that requires membership in the Honors College and completion of the Medicine & Society minor. Its curriculum is designed to develop skilled communicators and critical thinkers through a variety of courses, ranging from the foundational Human Situation sequence to advanced Honors classes in chemistry, biology, and genetics. This comprehensive approach ensures that graduates are well-rounded and competitive candidates for health professions, effectively addressing both immediate and broader issues in medicine and illness.

Houston Premedical Academy

Launched in 1996, the Houston Premedical Academy program is a collaborative effort between the Baylor College of Medicine and the DeBakey High School for Health Professions. Each year, only six high school seniors are selected through interviews held at Baylor College of Medicine to join the program. Participants are required to be members of the Honors College for all four years and must complete the Medicine and Society minor, which is a mandatory component of the curriculum.



3+3 Honors Law Dual Degree Program

The 3+3 Program, part of the Honors College at the University of Houston, enables a select group of motivated students to enter the University of Houston Law Center after their junior year. Participants are liberal studies majors with minors in *Phronésis* (law, ethics, and politics) and another field from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The program provides mentoring, support, networking with the Houston legal community, and access to Law Center resources. Completing the first year of law school awards the bachelor's degree.





EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Office of Undergraduate Research
and Major Awards (OURMA)

Learning Abroad / Learning Away

Speech & Debate / Model Debate

Bonner Leaders

Honors in Community Health (HICH)

Community Health Workers Initiative (CHWI)

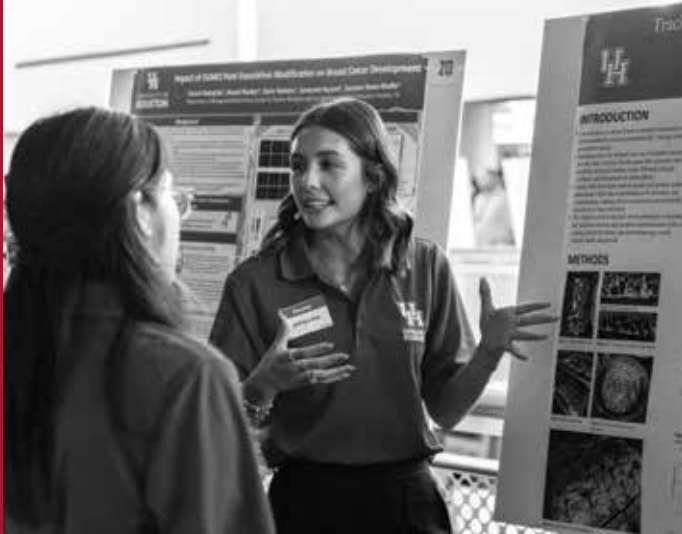
Pharis Scholars

Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)

Honors Co-Curricular Engagement Certificate



**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
AND MAJOR AWARDS**



The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA) encourages undergraduate students to seek knowledge outside of the classroom through mentored research and fellowship programs. OURMA not only supports students in their academic, personal, and professional trajectories but also cultivates opportunities for rigorous scholarly inquiry and collaboration.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, OURMA supported 347 mentored projects and awarded over \$750,000 in scholarships through programs such as the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS), Mellon Research Scholars, and Research for Aspiring Coogs in the Humanities. In December 2023, the Office received a third \$500,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to continue its work in expanding research and graduate school opportunities for students in the humanities. As a result, 60 additional students will be supported in humanities research through 2026.



Now in its second year, the 2024 Energy Scholars program supported 17 students engaged in a full year of energy-related mentored research. Projects include research to increase energy access in the Democratic Republic of Congo through the deployment of solar mini-grids and solar hybrid sites, an investigation into the “thermal comfort” model and the effects of semi-outdoor spaces on the mind and body, and a study of the effects of extreme heat events on renewable energy resources like solar and wind. Representing disciplines from engineering to architecture to the liberal arts, Energy Scholars are tackling pressing issues and complex problems from myriad perspectives. OURMA extends its thanks to corporate partners including Phillips 66, bp, TXU Energy, Baker Hughes Foundation, and Vistra for making this program possible.

Next year, OURMA will reach a special milestone. On April 10, 2025, undergraduate researchers from across the University of Houston will gather and present their research in the MD Anderson Library as part of the 20th annual Undergraduate Research Day (URD). Come celebrate the 20th anniversary of URD!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY BY THE NUMBERS

11
COLLEGES

368
PRESENTERS

241
POSTERS

9+ RESEARCH PROGRAMS REPRESENTED

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND MAJOR AWARDS



Research not only drives innovation, but also contributes to success with national fellowships and major awards. The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards continued to achieve high marks for its work with fellowship applicants during the 2023-2024 academic year. Fourteen UH students were awarded Fulbright grants, which is a University record. As a result, the University of Houston is expected to be named a Top Producing Fulbright Institution for the fourth time in February 2025. Over the past seven years, 68 UH students have been awarded Fulbrights to 30 different countries on five different continents – expanding the University of Houston’s global reach. Several UH students have even been invited back for a second year in places like Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Ghana. For all these reasons and more, UH was named a Fulbright Hispanic Serving Institution Leader for the fourth time this year.

UH students distinguished themselves with other fellowships as well, including the DAAD RISE Program, Critical Language Scholarship, and the Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship. Former UH Student Regent, Mielad Ziaee, became just the third UH student to earn the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship. He also received the Phi Beta Kappa Key Into Public Service Scholarship. UH students have won the PBK Key Into Public Service Scholarship in three of the four years that the award has existed and all of those students are from the Honors College. Finally, UH alum Fatou Jallow became the second ever UH recipient of the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship. Jallow already participated in the Princeton in Asia Program. Her trajectory is a reminder that repeated fellowship applications can lead to even bigger opportunities in the future.

LEARNING ABROAD





F.E.E.T. SCHOLARSHIP (EUROPE)

Faber-Economon European Travel Scholarship

SUMMER 2024



HONORS DEBATE



The University of Houston Honors Debate program is a co-curricular program of the Honors College which harnesses the competitive energy of UH undergraduates in research, argumentation, and leadership on the grand challenges facing contemporary society. Its strategic goals are to cultivate competitive success, encourage campus engagement, and foster community building across Houston and beyond. It is open to all UH students.

The program has multiple formats. Policy Debate is the oldest and longest running form of debate in the country. The program consistently ranks in the top-ten in the country, and is one of the largest in the nation.



The Models Debate format focuses on students role playing as delegates in a variety of international organizations (See opposite page.).

The Legal Debate format has two kinds of debate: Mock Trial, where students act out the various parts of a trial; and Moot Court where students engage in competitive appellate advocacy of complex legal cases.



Honors Debate format Cross Examination Debate Association National Debate Tournament (CEDA-NDT) on campus this past year and competed in various tournaments around the country hosted by Harvard University, West Point, Wake Forest University, Missouri State, University of Texas at Austin and other colleges and universities.

MODELS PROGRAMS



UH MODEL UN Model United Nations (MUN) is a program designed to educate students of all ages about current events in international relations. Model UN participants will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of how the UN-body countries cooperate with one another to address today's critical global issues, such as eliminating famine, protecting human rights, providing basic life necessities, preventing or ending armed conflicts, and more.



UH MAL For 36 years, the Honors College has participated in the National University Model Arab League (NUMAL) conference, held in Washington, D.C. Students are offered excellent opportunities to develop professional skills while learning about the social, economic, cultural, and political issues facing leaders of the Arab world, which are valuable to students of all majors and backgrounds. Delegates learn to master public speaking and discussion, writing and editing, interpersonal relations, and cross-cultural dialogue.



UH MODEL G20 MG20 introduces undergraduates, graduate students, and young professionals to international diplomacy by simulating the G20 summit, which brings together leaders from major economies. The UH Model G20 participated in the 2024 G20 Summit at American University in Washington, D.C. Rebecca Ji was recognized as the Best Delegate in the Sherpa Track, and Dima Ghazala earned the Outstanding Delegate award in the Leader Track.



UH MODEL AMWHO The 2024 American Mock World Health Organization (AMWHO) conference was held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Its focus was addressing historical and contemporary biases impacting global health. UH delegates represented Haiti, Greece, Cameroon, Myanmar, Denmark, and Peru. Students engaged with delegates from various regions and universities from across the states.

THE BONNER LEADERS

The Bonner Leaders Program engages students in community collaboration and cultivating civic leaders. The four-year program enables students to apply critical thinking skills to complex social issues, which support meaningful community change. Students dedicate thousands of service hours to community projects addressing educational inequality, food insecurity, and voter identification assistance. These initiatives significantly impact the local community and are supported by various local nonprofits, schools, and organizations.

The College emphasizes the program's role in developing students who are not only academically excellent but also genuinely committed to societal improvement. Bonner Leaders develop essential skills and civic attitudes through their experience. In their first year, students learn the interconnectedness of issues like poverty, nutrition, education, and healthcare. This can prompt initiatives such as the UH chapter of the Campus Kitchens Project, an organization that repurposed unserved dining hall food for those in need. Over the past decade, projects like Aspire, a college readiness tutoring program, and Writing to Inspire Successful Education have evolved and persisted.

The program aims to expand so all Honors College students can participate in community-engaged learning. Over the last academic year, Bonner Leaders committed to sustained community service each week, fostering a strong sense of civic responsibility. They completed policy research projects and learned about social action, reflecting on their service and growth through final presentations. Staff, faculty, and peer-to-peer mentorship helps them develop critical skills for future success.



HONORS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH (HICH)

Honors in Community Health (HICH), initially part of the Community Health Workers Initiative (CHWI), connects University of Houston students with Houston-area residents, including those from immigrant and refugee communities, through various community health projects. The organization focuses on community engagement, advocacy, and research to address barriers faced by underserved populations.

This year, HICH projects achieved notable milestones. Better Respiratory Education and Assistance Targeting Houston's Elementary (BREATHE) expanded to serve more students and Creative Care resumed in-person sessions at Cuney Homes. Project Engagement Encouraging Rising Students (PEERS) hosted its largest competition day by integrating with East Early College High School's capstone program. Women for Education, Advocacy, and Rights (WEAR) increased its community outreach with new funding and Operation Fusion introduced new themes at Las Americas Newcomer School. Responsive Resourcing collaborated with Bread of Life for resource distributions and conducted resource matching sessions with Community Health Workers (CHWs).

In total, students contributed over 6,000 volunteer hours across these projects for the 2023-2024 year. They hosted 11 social events and six workshops to continue to improve member engagement. With over 200 members involved in seven impactful projects, HICH stands as one of UH's largest organizations dedicated to addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) through community-engaged research and initiatives.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS INITIATIVE



Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a crucial role in transforming healthcare by focusing on prevention, behavior change, resource matching, and health advocacy within their communities. At the University of Houston, students, including undergraduates, high school students, and a diverse group of community members from immigrant and refugee backgrounds, can complete a 160-hour course to become certified CHWs. This course is approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Certified CHWs are encouraged to participate in community health projects alongside others training for roles in health and service nonprofits, such as Baylor College of Medicine, Rupani Foundation, Community Care Cooperative, and Harris County Public Health.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Community Health Workers Initiative (CHWI) hosted two major conferences: “Health Equity: From Awareness to Action,” which aimed to improve understanding and actions toward health equity in Parkinson’s disease care, and “Transforming Communities Together,” which explored how university researchers can enhance community transformations and amplify community voices. In spring 2023, CHWI graduated over 200 students, with an additional 78 students graduating in summer 2024.



PHARIS FELLOWS

The Pharis Fellowship offers undergraduate students a 10-week summer research opportunity focused on developing data projects to explore how individual health outcomes are influenced by social and environmental factors. Supported by the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute (HPE DSI), Pharis Fellows work full-time on self-directed projects, receiving guidance from mentors within the Honors College, HPE DSI, and partner organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Humana Insurance, the UH Education Research Center, and the Community Health Worker Initiative. The fellowship honors George “Trey” Pharis III, a cherished colleague at the Honors College’s Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH) program.



DATA ANALYTICS IN STUDENT HANDS

DASH is a co-curricular program at the Honors College designed to involve undergraduate students in projects that use data to address community needs. The program empowers students by providing project-based learning opportunities, in which they work in small groups on impactful community projects. DASH aims to cultivate a new perspective on data, emphasizing the importance of understanding the human impact of technology.

The program focuses on responsive engagement, starting with the needs of communities. It brings together a diverse range of partners, including local community leaders, UH students and faculty, K-12 schools, and the business community to explore innovative ways to apply data science for improving collective outcomes.

HONORS IN CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT DESIGNATION

The Honors in Co-Curricular Engagement (HCCE) designation allows University of Houston students to create a personalized co-curricular plan that complements their academic studies with hands-on experiences like research, internships, study abroad, service learning, and leadership roles. Upon completing the requirements, students earn the HCCE designation on their transcripts at graduation, recognizing their commitment to experiential learning. This program boosts career prospects, enhances interview skills, and strengthens professional networks, while promoting academic engagement, mentorship, and critical reflection. Open to all undergraduates, the HCCE program supports applying classroom knowledge to real-world situations and highlights achievements for graduate programs and employers.

Over 60 programs participated in the HCCE fair during the spring and fall semesters, organized by Anne Dayton, director of the UH Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE), and Rita Sharp, director of the Honors College Co-Curricular Engagement (HCCE), including off-campus opportunities like the Baylor College of Medicine Summer Research Program, SHAPE Volunteer Center, and Civic Heart Community Services. UH was represented by nine colleges, including Hilton College of Global Hospitality, the Cullen College of Engineering, and more. Over 250 students attended, with all participating programs counting toward the HCCE transcript designation.

CITE and HCCE, with support from the UH Office of Community and Government Relations, collaborated on the Symposium on Community Engagement and Experiential Learning. The event featured speakers from several UH colleges, as well as community partners like the UH Advancing Community Engagement and Services Institute (ACES) and the UH Coastal Center (UHCC). Over 140 individuals registered, and the symposium offered opportunities to share best practices, network, and highlight students excelling in community engagement and experiential learning.





ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Honors College
Advisory Board

Ross M. Lence Master
Teachers Series

The Great Conversation

Honors Supporters



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ROSS M. LENCE MASTER TEACHER DINNER



Dr. Lence's career was defined by his passion for the transformative power of undergraduate education. Every day, he brought a vibrant energy and a deep interest in both books and students. His conversational approach and provocative style inspired students to strive for excellence and encouraged colleagues to rethink outdated habits and perspectives.

Each academic year, the Lence Master Teacher Residency Program at the University of Houston's Honors College invites a "master teacher" to connect with students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the College. On February 16, 2024, Harvey C. Mansfield who is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Research Professor of Government at Harvard University, spoke to a room full of faculty, staff, students, friends and alumni of the Honors College.



The Great Conversation



The Honors College hosted its 32nd annual Great Conversation fundraiser on April 20 in Morian Hall of Paleontology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Hundreds of donors came together to participate in a long-standing, award-winning tradition that benefits students through scholarships and programs. The Great Conversation supports a fundamental value of the Honors College, which is to foster thoughtfulness and care for the world by engaging in disciplined discussion and critical thinking concerning things that matter.

During the three-course dinner, guests interacted in a facilitated conversation on a topic of their choosing. Event topics represented many areas of life, from arts and literature, history, religion and pop culture to finance, public policy, and aspects of the city of Houston.



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